



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Residents Push for Parking Permit Zone Around 24th St.

By Anne Gates

If you live on Jersey or Elizabeth Street and you're finding it hard to park near your home, you are not alone.

With the growing popularity of stores and shops in "Downtown Noe Valley," parking spaces on the two residential streets closest to 24th Street are scarce these days, and traffic is at an all-time high. Now one citizen has started a drive to put a halt to the congestion.

Jersey Street resident Ron Olsen is petitioning the city to establish a Residential Neighborhood Parking Zone around 24th Street, similar to those in North Beach, Cole Valley, and Glen Park.

Olsen envisions a permit zone that will encompass approximately 14 blocks: from Douglass to Dolores streets, and from Jersey to Elizabeth streets. Those who live within the zone could apply for special parking stickers for their cars. (Existing parking meters, like those on 24th Street, would remain in place, and permit holders would obey the same metered parking limits as everyone else.)

Drivers without stickers would have to abide by a two-hour parking limit in the restricted zone, which would be in effect from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week.

"A couple of hours of parking seems fair for both the merchants and the residents. I think two hours is plenty of time to run your errands or shop on 24th Street," Olsen says.

A resident of Jersey for three years, Olsen was prompted to launch the petition because the parking crunch seemed to reach critical mass this past year. "Just try to find a parking space here!" he laments.

Not only do 24th Street shoppers fill many of the parking spots on the non-metered streets, he points out, but shop owners and store employees often park their cars in the neighborhood while working on the strip.

Olsen and his neighbors have even observed commuters who drive to Jersey Street, park their cars, and then hop on the J-line to ride to work. "It's cheaper to park in the neighborhoods and take Muni than to pay for parking downtown," he explains.

The volume of traffic in the area is up as well. Says Olsen, "We're plagued with delivery trucks," which bump and rumble down the side streets, on their way to and from businesses on 24th Street. He isn't sure how to solve the heavy traffic problem, but thinks the city should consider banning trucks above a certain weight on Jersey and Elizabeth.

To bolster his case, Olsen contacted the city's Department of Traffic and Engineering and asked for a "car count" on Jersey Street. He was told that the department is presently backlogged, but will get to Jersey eventually.

Child safety is also an issue. Olsen has noticed an increase in the number of



Florence and Leo Holub's favorite wall-hanging these days is a heart-shaped wreath made by Sanchez Street resident Claudia Duggan. To find out why, turn to "Florence's Family Album," page 39. Photo by Leo Holub

speeding cars, perhaps because drivers use Jersey in order to avoid the slower traffic on 24th Street. These days residents cannot back out of their driveways, he says, "without someone leaning on their horn" to warn of oncoming traffic.

Olsen, Jersey Street resident Yvonne Borg, and several other local residents will soon be going door to door, asking neighbors to sign their petition for the parking permit zone. Once they collect 250 signatures, they will turn over the forms to the Department of Parking and Traffic.

The department will then inspect the petition, survey license plates in the area, and check the license plates with the De-

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## City Okays Demolition of Spanish Church

By Loren J. Bialik

Plans to replace the two-story Second Spanish Baptist Church next door to Bell Market with a four-story retail and apartment complex have passed a major hurdle at City Hall.

In late November, the Planning Department approved a permit to demolish the church (and an adjacent Victorian) at 3932 24th St., the large lot in the middle of the block of 24th Street between Sanchez and Noe.

City planners also accepted preliminary sketches for the project presented by Joe Cassidy, of Cassidy Construction, Inc., who purchased the property for \$1.1 million in 1994. Cassidy's next step is to obtain an endorsement from the Building Department.

As reported in the September and November issues of the *Voice*, the proposed structure will have a stylized Victorian facade and will align with existing storefronts on 24th Street, such as the Good News newsstand. It will have 19 dwelling units, above four retail shops and a parking garage, designed primarily to accommodate the tenants.

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## Matsuya, Noe Valley's Landmark Sushi Parlor

By Melanie Norden

Fusae Ponne, owner of Matsuya Restaurant on 24th near Vicksburg for the past 21 years, has been credited by some culinary experts with opening the very first sushi bar in San Francisco, long before most Americans could distinguish a *tekka maki* (tuna sushi roll) from a pterodactyl.

"I was the first," she agrees emphatically, with a self-directed index finger.

Situated in a tiny storefront that seats only 22, Matsuya is one of those little neighborhood restaurants you want to keep a secret from all but your closest friends, so as not to see it spoiled. It offers consistently good food, a quirky, entertaining decor, affordable prices ("not too high, not too low...just right," says Ponne), and, of course, a charming, attentive, and fun-loving hostess.

After 43 years of serving up Japanese sushi, Ponne, who prefers not to give her



Chef Yoshi Tomi Takeshi and Matsuya owner Fusae Ponne (right) have been dispensing sushi with wit and charm for more than 20 years on 24th Street. Photo by Charles Kennard

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## The Development That Won't Go Away

Editor:

The longstanding battle with developers over the large irregular lot located between 25th and Clipper streets, from Homestead to Hoffman Avenue, is BACK ["Large Housing Complex to Go Up on Clipper," *Noe Valley Voice*, December 1995/January 1996]. This time the owner is proposing to build a 12-unit subdivision to be developed into 24 units.

Residents should recall that plans for this site have been around since the early 1970s. [The *Voice* reported on two prior development efforts, in the May 1982 and May 1990 issues.]

One of the first was a Hayman Homes' plan for construction of a convalescent hospital. Since that time, numerous projects have been defeated by the neighborhood, and the property has been downzoned from multi-family to RH-2 (two-family residential) zoning.

Clipper Street is significantly higher than nearby 25th Street. If approved, the proposed buildings, to be situated on the steep northern slope, would have a substantial shadow impact on the single-family homes to the south.

The "panhandle," the western end of the property (at Hoffman), is situated on unconsolidated fill, ranging in depth from 5 to 30 feet, behind an eight-foot retaining wall placed there when Clipper Street was widened, maybe for a freeway on-ramp, sometime in the early 1950s.

Robert Passmore, current zoning administrator at the Planning Department, stated in a 1982 Preliminary Negative Declaration on this property, "The site is on a steep slope which may be subject to landslide during seismic activity."

A neighborhood meeting, attending by more than 40 concerned neighbors, was

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held with the project's architect on Tuesday, Jan. 16. Numerous objections and concerns were voiced, including:

- Parking and traffic congestion on 25th and Homestead with loss of on-street parking spaces.
- Curb cuts on Clipper Street.
- Shadow impact on the 25th Street and Hoffman Avenue homes to the south.
- And loss of views from adjoining properties.

In addition, the driveways and a parking lot in the rear yards of neighbors fronting on 25th Street would give rise to excessive noise, headlights, and pollution for the surrounding neighbors.

But the most serious threat is erosion and liquefaction of the soil, potentially leading to landslides.

In late January, we learned that the Planning Commission was preparing to issue a report declaring that the proposed project would have *no significant* environmental impact on the neighborhood.

But I'm writing to say that an appeal of this "negative declaration" will be filed!

Barbara Martin  
Hoffman Avenue

## The Pigeon Drops at Midnight

Editor:

In an attempt to establish a New Year's Eve tradition in Noe Valley, four of us locals celebrated the stroke of midnight with champagne and noisemakers (and one cigar) in front of Dorian Clair Clock Repair on Sanchez and 26th Street.

I toasted 1996 with Tom McNichol of 28th Street and Jane Gilligan and Dirk Olin of Jersey Street.

We hope more residents will join us next New Year's Eve at Noe Valley's own Times Square. Happy New Year!

Antonia Moore  
Duncan Street

## I'm Wearing Feathers As I Write This

Editor:

This is in regard to the letter in the December/January *Voice* from "Clipper Street Resident" concerning the pigeon problem. I suggest they contact Animal Care and Control at 554-6364. If they get no satisfactory response, they might consider joining the Cornell Lab of Ornithology pigeon research team. For information write to Pigeon Project Watch, P.O. Box 11, Ithaca, NY 14851-0011.

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

Yours,  
"A Sussex Street Resident"

## Still Riled Over Ramps

Editor:

If Wayne Sherman of Fillmore Street can be so easily amazed (by my letter in the November *Voice*), what an exciting life he must lead! Unfortunately, in the heat of the moment, he got everything wrong.

It was my belief, expressed in my letter, that the 30th Street Senior Center *objected* to having a wheelchair-accessible ramp on 30th. I checked with them recently and found that they did object, and still do—for a reason that now seems very good, indeed: the proposed ramps would do them no good. They have two main groups of clients: those who get themselves to the center by automobile or Muni as it is now, and those who are too feeble to use public transportation under any conditions and are conveyed by specially equipped vans.

Sherman's letter reflects the central bureaucracy's ignorance of the neighborhoods. No one would have used a ramp at Day or 29th Street to "attend... your recent music festival." The nearest participating establishment was Jack's Taps at 25th Street, eight blocks to the north.

Hugh Palmerston  
Thirtieth Street

# EDITOR'S NOTES

## Getting Our Web Feet Wet

This was not my idea. I'd rather be writing a postcard to Bill Griffith with my Staedler pen. But instead, here I am at my Mac—mostly staring at the insertion point's slow rhythmic blinking on the screen—wondering what words to use to communicate the fact that the *Voice* is nearly web-borne.

Griffith's *Zippy the Pinhead* comic strip, which appears in these pages, often serves to remind me to be wary of the trendy. In Zippy's world, logging on means putting a Duraflame in the fireplace. And in the December 1995 strip he wondered, "Is using the telephone now too aggressive an act?" after he "quaintly" took some mail to the post office. While I grant his points, I have to go with whatever it takes to have fun and still practice journalism.

Last summer, my editor & partner Sally Smith, the commander-in-chief herself, told me, "We've gotta get on the Internet!" And so I hopped to it. Seven months later I'm looking at a deadline of yesterday, and, well, we *are* on the 'net. But everything is not exactly nailed down.

If you have access to the World Wide Web, you can view the *Voice* home page under construction at the "URL" <http://www.noevalleyvoice.com>. It was created with the help of my friend Geoff at [g.gould.com](mailto:g.gould.com). There's a link shown there to our temporary e-mail address: [jaxvoice@aol.com](mailto:jaxvoice@aol.com). Drop us a line if you're out surfing.

The *Voice* will publish some sort of electronic edition someday. As long as there is a Martha's latte at hand and a PG&E to keep the current going, I'll keep on trying to figure this thing out.

Last week I got a message that my hometown (population 1,250, give or take) has a home page. Okay. I'm going to check that out just as soon as I save and download this to Ms. Spell Check. She does come up with some pretty good ideas at times. And to tell the truth, my Staedler pen was a garage sale item over seven years ago. I hope Zippy will forgive me.

—Jack Tipple

# Two-Hour Parking for Elizabeth and Jersey Streets?

Continued from Page 1

partment of Motor Vehicles to see how many car owners reside in the proposed permit zone. Parking and Traffic will pass its recommendation on to the Board of Supervisors, which makes the final decision.

The approval process is a lengthy one—it will be at least a year before stickers could be available—but Olsen is optimistic about his chances. "I'll have no problem getting those signatures," he maintains. "I've had nothing but positive responses to the idea from residents."

If a Residential Neighborhood Parking Zone is approved, residents could obtain their stickers when they present their California vehicle registration with a current address, proof of residency (such as a utility bill), and a check for \$21. Each business in the permit zone would be allowed just one permit sticker. Temporary visitor

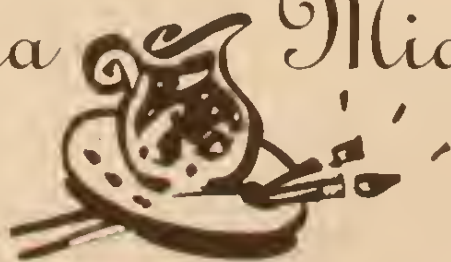
permits would be available for \$5 per two-week period, with a maximum stay of two months.

But won't parking permits on Jersey and Elizabeth just push the gridlock onto other streets?

Yes, they might, says Olsen. However, he gives a positive spin to this domino effect: more neighboring streets might join the permit zone. He added that he is willing to help residents on nearby streets who'd like to start their own petitions.

Meanwhile, Paul Kantus, president of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, has volunteered to help collect signatures for the parking permit petition. Noe Valley residents who wish to get involved should call Kantus at 647-3753. Olsen also asks his Noe Valley neighbors to think seriously about signing the petition. And, of course, everyone could drive (and park) with a little more courtesy, too. □

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## Sushi Bar Turns 21

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age, is sometimes forced to close the restaurant when her chronic back problems flare up.

Still, she continues to win high marks from reviewers, restaurant guides, and, of course, her patrons. When asked if she's considering retirement, she pauses, thinks for a moment, then answers, "No," adding, "I'd miss talking to the customers. Besides, my regular customers still come, even if I am closed sometimes."

As proof, she has amassed a collection of notes left by would-be diners on the evenings when they unexpectedly found Matsuya closed. Some are written to Ponne (all positive, all wishing her well); others were left for friends they'd planned to meet up with.

"All the things in here were given to me by customers," Ponne says proudly, waving her hand at an amazing assortment of wall and counter decorations—a full-size marlin, a collection of carved and brightly painted tropical fish, a pair of giant blowfish, a record-breaking lobster mounted in a basket, and a colorful abstract oil painting (an artist's trade for a meal?).

"I remember them all," she declares, and then points to a wood-carved mackerel with a steel head and tail. "That was the first fish."

It is Ponne herself, with her unique brand of urban wit—a hodgepodge of tongue-in-cheek remarks and ironic asides, delivered with a twinkling eye—who keeps the regulars coming back, some up to two or three times a week.

There is the often-recounted story of a patron leaving his wallet on the table when he went to the restroom: Ponne hid it, admonishing the patron's dinner partner with mock seriousness, "He should not do that!" Upon delivering the bill, and with a knowing smile at her patron's consternation upon realizing his loss, she presented the wallet with a veteran comic's timing.

"We come every couple of months—really, whenever we can," say regulars Jane Youngblood, 29, of Pacifica, and Ron Poole, 32, of Sunnyside, on a typically busy weekday night at Matsuya. "We've tried plenty of other sushi bars, and this is the best," Poole says, adding with a nod to Ponne, "Actually, *she's* the best."

Ponne then arrives at their table flourishing a new dish for Youngblood to try: freshwater eel. Wielding a pair of chopsticks, she personally feeds her customer the first bite, then hustles off to another table, where a cranky toddler needs soothing.

"This is just the thing to keep him quiet," she grins, presenting him with a green ice cream cone.

No one enjoys Ponne's friendly banter more than Yoshi Tomi Takeshi, the sushi chef who has worked with her for 18 years. "Oh, we argue sometimes, but it's nothing," Ponne says with a wink.

Takeshi, after attending professional cooking school in Japan, came to the states in 1978 for a visit with his sister, and "to learn some English before going back." He never left. "I'm still working

on my English," he laughs.

"City people eat sushi, but country people order chicken teriyaki," notes Takeshi, who experiments and develops his specials while cooking for himself. "I like sushi. It's what I eat at home. When I make something I like, then I make it for the customers."

His personal preference these days is sea urchin, but "it's not something I usually recommend for customers!"

Efficiently molding seaweed, tuna, and rice for an order, he adds, "Making sushi is like playing music, you have to practice." Takeshi, 39, is also an avid orchid grower and often brings his best blooms into the restaurant for customers to enjoy.

What's the most common question asked of a sushi chef?

## 24th Street Development Gets Nod from City Hall

*Continued from Page 1*

But don't expect the development to appear overnight. "Nothing will happen until we have all the city permits," said Cassidy in mid-January. "We're still expecting to begin construction in May."

According to James Hutchinson, senior building inspector for the Department of Building Inspection, "Cassidy's estimate of May might be optimistic. The Building Department must first get an okay from the Fire Department, Streets and Sidewalks, and the Bureau of Engineering before we'll give the project our approval."

He also noted that at the present time the design was only conceptual. It will be tweaked and fine-tuned through public hearings along the way.

"Once everyone agrees on what the building should look like, how tall it will be, and that it meets code provisions, the engineer for the developer goes back and redesigns the exact details of the project." Those details must once again be approved by the city before construction starts. At each step, the public has the option to voice objections.

Of particular concern to Noe Valley neighbors is exactly which stores will occupy the shop spaces on the ground floor. Though he hasn't decided which businesses will lease the space, Cassidy was adamant about one thing: "There will definitely be no coffee shops. I can't stand them. Too many people are sitting on the sidewalk and not working," he said.



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"Customers always ask, 'Where do you get your fish?' Takeshi says. "I tell them I go fishing every night, but I've actually never been fishing," he jokes.

Regular customers and newcomers alike are greeted with "hellos" upon their arrival at the restaurant, from both Ponne and Takeshi, followed by numerous *arigatos* (goodbys) on their departure.

"He'll be back," Ponne says of one customer, gesturing toward a grocery bag left behind. "Maybe he left his wallet, too." □

*Matsuya, located at 3856 24th St., is generally open 4:30 to 10:45 p.m. Monday through Saturday (closed Sundays). But it may be a good idea to call first: 282-7989.*

## Pot of Bagels At the End of The Rainbow

*By Loren J. Bialik*

After a five-month delay caused by a snafu in the city bureaucracy, The Posh Bagel is all fired up to open an outlet at 3933 24th St. on Feb. 1.

"The Planning Department reissued the permit on January 2," said Jeffrey Ottovoggio, president of the Santa Clara-based hagel chain. "The sooner we open, the better."

Readers will recall that City Planning had granted a conditional use permit to Posh in early July. But in mid-October—six weeks into renovating the spot formerly occupied by Double Rainbow Ice Cream—the city realized it had made a mistake in issuing the permit.

The original variance was limited to a store selling ice cream. The Posh Bagel, which will sell soups, deli sandwiches, "schmeers" (cheese spreads), and knishes in addition to hagels, was ordered to stop further construction and to apply for a new permit. (The shop also intends to offer seating at three tables with nine chairs.)

Ottovoggio was steaming at the setback. He had been expecting to open the store in August. And since Posh had already signed a lease, his company was losing plenty of dough paying for an empty storefront on 24th Street.

Now that the proper permits have been issued, tempers have simmered down and it's time to warm up the hagels.

"I'm happy the permit part is over. Posh Bagel is really looking forward to being in Noe Valley." □

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Now that he's retired from being a "Hall Monitor" for *The Independent*, writer and cable TV host Bruce Pettit may find time to soak up the local political gossip at Herb's on 24th Street.

Photo by Beverly Thorp

## Bruce Pettit: It's Not Easy Being a Political Insider

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

In mid-January, while most of the local political press was busy reporting on Mayor Willie Brown's flash and dash, Bruce Pettit, Noe Valley's resident political commentator, sat in a booth at Miss Millie's on 24th Street, sipping herbal tea, nibbling at a cinnamon roll, and explaining to the *Voice* why he's tired of San Francisco politics.

"It's becoming repetitious," says the 50-year-old Chavez Army Street resident, who hosts *Viewpoint*, Viacom Cable TV's weekly political interview show.

Three days before we spoke, Pettit had conducted the first television interview with Brown since he'd been sworn in.

"Certainly, I think the city is in for an exciting time with Willie Brown. He's such a dynamic leader that I'm sure he'll attempt and succeed at a lot of change, but I report on politics in the narrow sense—how people are chosen to elected office—and there's not that much new to report on."

Why? Pettit chalks it all up to machine politics.

"In the mayor's race, that's what the Roberta Achtenberg challenge was all about," he explains. "She wanted to open up the process. She came close, but didn't quite make it."

Now, says Pettit, Brown could well be the head of the new political machine in San Francisco.

"With the Assembly seats that are being vacated [Brown's and John Burton's], we should have had a genuine contest," he says. "But it isn't happening. There's only Supervisor Carole Migden [for Brown's seat] and Supervisor Kevin

Shelley [for Burton's seat]."

Pettit and other analysts have reported that San Francisco School Board Member Steve Phillips, who threw his hat in the ring against Supervisor Carole Migden for Brown's Assembly seat last April and then abruptly withdrew a few months later, was pressured out by Brown.

"We have machine politics once again," says Pettit. "The person at the top decides who should run and everyone else jumps on the handwagon—the subordinate players, such as the Democratic clubs, agree to endorse, the fundraising organizations agree to raise money, etc."

"I have nothing against Carole Migden and Kevin Shelley," he continues. "They will probably make fine legislators. But the engine that drives San Francisco politics is definitely progressive, and if you're not of that persuasion, you don't have much chance of getting elected. We should have a debate on the issues, and we're not going to get it. One of the reasons voters created term limits was because they wanted a new dynamism in political debate, and it isn't going to happen."

"Yet," he notes, "a progressive machine that works well might be the only way to brace against the conservative tide in this country that began with the November 1994 elections. If we don't have the progressive machine that anoints people and instead have progressives fighting against one another, then we'll never win. So if this progressive machine works to hold the conservative tide in check, maybe that's what we need."

What Pettit needs is a rest. Since moving to San Francisco in 1974, he's written nonstop about city politics—for the *San Francisco Progress*, the *San Francisco Examiner*, the *Sentinel*, the *Bay Area Reporter*, and, most recently, the bi-weekly *Independent*. From February 1992 until just two months ago, Pettit and fellow commentator Jim Wachob co-wrote "Hall Monitors," a weekly column on political news for the *Independent*.

"If I was reporting on the larger side of government—about the running of gov-

ernment—instead of the electoral side," says Pettit, "I might have stayed at the *Independent*. But the fact is that the narrow side isn't going to be very dynamic because the leaders are being chosen at the top."

"When I came to San Francisco," he continues, "I didn't think the political reporting on the dailies was very good, but it's much improved now."

And Pettit undoubtedly had something to do with that.

In 1986, as founder and editor of the *Pettit Report* (a newsletter on San Francisco politics which later became known as *CitReport*), Pettit hired a little-known

***'We have machine politics once again. The person at the top decides who should run and everyone else jumps on the bandwagon.'***

pollster named David Binder to do a survey on voter preferences in the Board of Supervisors race. Although the *Chronicle* and *Examiner* had carried polls on statewide elections, Pettit's publication was the first to conduct a poll about a San Francisco election.

"David's poll showed Wendy Nelder would come in first, and she did," says Pettit. The following year, the dailies began conducting their own city surveys, often commissioning Binder, whose name has since become synonymous with local political polling.

"I believe local polls started with me and David," says Pettit. "The papers saw what I was doing in the *Pettit Report*. Political analysis was also very thin in those days, but it's much better now. And there were no gossip columns either. No 'Matier & Ross.' Now, the papers report on what's going on behind the scenes. An issue like Jordan making appointments to the Park and Rec Commission in his remaining days as mayor wouldn't have been reported in the early '80s. But now

it is, and it's important for people to have an explanation for things like that."

Pettit cut his teeth in the world of political reporting in the early '70s as a copy editor at Field News Syndicate in Chicago, working with Evans and Novak, Joseph Kraft, and Carl Rowan.

"When I worked with Evans and Novak, they were writing about the Watergate crisis, so it was a very exciting time and provided me with very heady stuff to edit," he says. "I got a lot of my political reporting style from Evans and Novak and Joseph Kraft. They were very good at analyzing what goes into politics and not putting their ideological slant into their writing."

During his weekly interviews on *Viewpoint*, which he has hosted since 1991, Pettit is inquisitive but never confrontational. More often than not, he simply lets his guest state his or her piece. Perhaps because of that style, *Bay Guardian* Managing Editor Tim Redmond has accused Pettit of posing "softball" questions to his guests. Pettit brushes off the criticism, though, saying he doesn't plan on changing his style.

"Even though I have a point of view on the various issues I'm talking to politicians about, I don't want to offer it," he explains. "That's not my job. My job is to bring out the politician's point of view. I want politicians to speak for themselves, and if I bring out their point of view for the audience, then I think I've succeeded."

"Most people think politicians are bad," he adds. "I don't think they're bad. They're forced to make decisions the rest of us don't want to deal with. I like to find out what direction they plan to go in and why they made the decisions they did. If I can show that, then I've done my job."

Although Pettit has lived in Noe Valley for more than a decade, he says he doesn't pay much attention to Noe Valley politics.

"I pay more attention to city issues than Noe Valley issues," he says. "I remember

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## Pettit & Politics

*Continued from Page 5*

when I moved to the neighborhood, there was a big opposition to chain stores. I don't hear as much about that anymore. I don't know if it's because neighbors gave up the fight or because it's not such a big deal anymore. If a chain store offers more things and at a cheaper price, that's just the way it is.

"I know people want to keep the character of the neighborhood, and chain stores are sort of cookie-cutter," he admits, "but people also want things at the best price, which a chain store is often able to provide."

Of the controversy surrounding the street he lives on, "It's interesting that people cared so vehemently about the Chavez Street/Army Street issue. I'd think they'd have cared more about the charter amendment, which has the potential to affect them and the city much more. But I guess people don't see how the charter relates to them in an immediate way, whereas they can understand the Chavez Street issue and how it affects them directly."

*'Most people think politicians are bad. I don't think they're bad. They're forced to make decisions the rest of us don't want to deal with.'*

As for Pettit himself, he says he's in transition. He might work for another paper. He might expand his role at Viacom. Or he might drop his journalism career altogether.

"Political reporting is very difficult work," he says. "We have good political reporters in this city. None of us are fools. People who say we have never done the job and don't know how hard it is—how hard it is to get the truth without losing a source or making enemies or causing conflicts that make you the news instead of letting you report the news."

For the time being, Pettit is content to be the host of *Viewpoint*—"playing the role of the typical voter, letting viewers see politicians in an unfiltered environment, and asking them about the issues I think people want to hear about."

He also enjoys conducting straightforward, completely above-board interviews.

"I definitely don't miss the off-the-record conversations that were part of doing a political column like mine [in the *Independent*]. People wanted a story reported, but they didn't want to be the source. That part of the job made me not want to do it anymore."

*Viewpoint* airs on Viacom (Channel 35) every Thursday at 8:30 p.m.; reruns are Thursday evenings at 10:30 p.m., Friday at 2:30 p.m., and Saturday at 10:30 p.m. □



Although he pretty much kept to himself, Walter McLaughlin occasionally allowed visitors a peek at the old barn behind his family home on Clipper Street. Photo by Beverly Thorp

### In Memory of Walter McLaughlin

*I* say a prayer for Walter, my neighbor said, and I did and I have. But I feel and sense it is time to pray he will go home to God soon—to join his family in spirit.

Over 20 years ago, when we first moved to Noe Valley, I noticed the shy man who lived in a house across the street. He was always immaculate in appearance, and he always walked.

After we had settled in here, I noticed that if he caught my eye when I was sweeping the walk, he would nod briefly, but go on his way. In time, the neighbors told me he was a retired dentist, a bachelor, had served in World War II, and he still lived in the house where he was born.

His sister, who had lived with him, had passed away, and so he was alone. He shared a bit with some of the neighbors: His home has an old barn in the back of the lot where the horse and buggy were kept. The entry was through what is now the garage. Some of the neighbors tried to get him to tell more of his history, but he was reluctant to open up.

Now, as I say prayers for Walter, I regret that he was not able to do so. But because of his shyness and his need for privacy, his neighbors tried not to be obtrusive or interfering. We just quietly kept an eye on him.

Recently, we noticed he was failing, and Micki, who lives next door to him, had gained his trust—enough to do a bit more. He'd had a fall and injured himself. She called to tell me she was taking him to the doctor. At that time, I offered our help, and she said she would call.

On a Tuesday in December, election day, Micki was due to work at the polls. She noted that there was no activity next door. She went on to work and later took the time to call Walter. There was no answer. Around noon that day, I heard unusual noises on the street, and I opened the front door to see police cars and a fire truck at Walter's house. I called one of the officers over, and he said someone had called 911. About that time the ambulance arrived, and I said a little prayer for Walter as I watched our neighbor, Bruce, helping to bring Walter out on the stretcher.

*M*icki now tells me he lies in a hospital, trying to refuse the needles and medications and foods that our society sometimes forces on those who are endeavoring to go on their way. Tony and Micki have joined forces to appoint a guardian for Walter. Tony is an attorney. Apparently there are no close friends or relatives to guard his interests.

And so, twice a day I say a prayer for Walter, now in his 90s:

Walter, I pray that the powers that be will allow you to go on your journey with the good manners and respect you always exhibited to others during your long life. It's always sad to lose an elder. You leave a number of admirers who will remember you, with your quiet ways and dignified air. The memory of your presence in our lives will remain, like a soft candle's glow, shining in the night. *Vaya con dios*, Walter. I'll say another prayer for you.

Respectfully,  
Kim Mercuri-Bullis

*Dr. Walter McLaughlin died Jan. 2, 1996. A lifelong resident of Noe Valley, he will be missed by his neighbors on Clipper Street. A service was held at St. Paul's Church.*

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**Dead Christmas Trees** were still appearing on Noe Valley sidewalks in late January. This cast-off holiday symbol seemed to cause little concern for two local lads on their way to school. But the question remains: if a tree can perish in ritual sacrifice, can its soul be conveyed to heaven by the Department of Public Works trash collectors? *Photo by Beverly Tharp*

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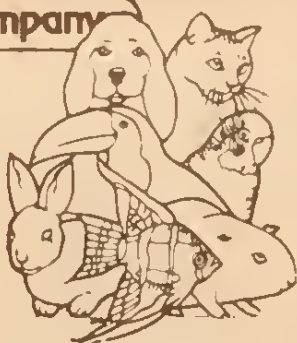
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# POLICE BEAT

## Two 24th Street 'Burgs' Arrested

By Officer Lois Perillo

Two men have been arrested regarding a string of two dozen commercial burglaries in the upper 24th Street area that occurred during a four-month period ending in December.

Apparently, each man operated independently. One man targeted buildings with ducting and metal gratings, while another earned the nickname "Termite" due to his burrowing methods.

The first man, a 52-year-old Noe Valley resident who is also a sheet metal worker, was captured Nov. 24 after police intensified patrols. This suspect was first heard by Officer Victor Silveira, and then spotted when he attempted to break into a business on the 3800 block of 24th Street, possibly for the third time.

The suspect fled the scene and was caught on 23rd Street near Vicksburg by Officers John Lewis and Milt Anduluz. Since the premise hadn't been entered, the suspect was charged with attempted burglary and possession of "burg tools." Currently, he's free on bond and continues to make his court appearances.

Unfortunately, the burgs persisted, however, so the uniformed and undercover police presence was maintained.

A wily burglar continued to strike the businesses after closing time and usually entered via a poorly secured rear or side door; once he cut through an outer rear wall at about midnight. He was heard by a resident who believed the sounds were due to legitimate late-night construction.

I flyer'd the neighborhood and encouraged community vigilance, especially by those residents who live near the shops.

### Max Gets the "Termite"

The second man, dubbed "Termite," a 36-year-old resident of a South Van Ness residential hotel, was arrested on Dec. 28 after a police dog found him hiding in the false ceiling of a store on 24th Street at Noe. The suspect apparently broke into a neighboring business first, cut a hole through a common wall, then crawled into the second business and set off the alarm.

When Officers Greg McEachem and Recruit Officers Timothy Yee and Joseph Zamagni arrived at about 1:30 a.m., Yee shined his flashlight into the store and saw the suspect inside. The officers surrounded the store, establishing a perimeter to keep the suspect from escaping, and called for assistance.

Seven officers and four sergeants, one with a police dog, arrived. After doing a complete search of both businesses, Sgt. Manwiller and his dog, Max, found the suspect hiding in the false ceiling of the first store. After the suspect was arrested, Sgt. Dan Linehan found stolen property and gloves in his hiding spot.

The suspect was charged with two burglaries, both felonies, and one misdemeanor of burg tool possession. He remains in custody, pending his court date.

The commercial burgs stopped, and many merchants have better secured their businesses. If you are still concerned, however, call SAFE at 553-1984 for an in-depth security survey.

### Updates on Two Nasty Men

Remember the man, formerly of the 1300 block of Church Street, who interfered with the bail bondsmen's arresting his girlfriend in February 1994? The

charge that the 39-year-old man had brandished an assault weapon was dismissed. Then, in October 1994, he was arrested along with his 30-year-old girlfriend; both were charged with the murder of a Mission Street pawnbroker. They remain in custody and are due to begin their trial on Feb. 5 in Superior Court 22.

The "Nasty Man" of Walgreen's infamy got his probation reinstated after successful completion of his community service sentence, which he received after vandalizing the store. In the meantime, he was cited twice for public alcohol consumption. He failed to pay the \$72 hail or make a court appearance and is now wanted on warrants for over \$400.

No, I wasn't the officer who issued those cites. And as the new city administration is seated, I've yet to see whether the Matrix program will be scuttled or changed, potentially reducing alcohol-related cites in favor of detox diversion, alcohol abuse treatment, and prevention services. We in the Mission are still awaiting a district detox center.

### On Fred's Team

On Thursday, Jan. 18, I donned my Class-A (dress) uniform, and met hundreds of police officers, family, friends, community activists, and the press at the Herbst Theatre for a memorable S.F.P.D. promotions ceremony. Fred Lau received his chief of police star from Mayor Willie Brown and broke tradition to present his team of deputy chiefs and commanders with their stars.

My recent boss Joaquin Santos, the immediate past captain of Mission Station for two years, was promoted to the rank of commander of the Patrol Division. He'll be overseeing the department's 10 district police stations. Well done, Jack!

So who's at the helm of Mission Station? Noe Valley's own Acting Captain Gabriel Harp, who was senior lieutenant on our day watch for several years.

Harp brings his Spanish bilingual skills to a job that demands an ongoing interface with the community. He is also a founding member of the S.F.P.D.'s Peer Support Program, editor of its newsletter, and a member of the Critical Incident Response Team. And that's just the stuff that I know! Our station is still awaiting Chief Lau's appointment of Mission's Top Cop. I look forward to dropping "acting" from my commanding officer's title, and calling him Captain Harp.

Another Mission Station alumnus, Melinda Pengel, recent captain of the Police Academy whose team just trained five concurrent academy classes, was promoted to the rank of commander of the Special Operations Division. She'll be in charge of the S.F.P.D.'s Muni Transit Company, Traffic Company, Crime Prevention Company, and Housing Task Force. Pengel's duties also include community policing, a practice of neighborhood empowerment that I employ. Her appointment is especially historic because she is the first woman and lesbian to achieve the rank of commander. Brava, Mindy!

Earl Sanders, formerly of the dynamic

## Merchants Lobby to Move Church Street Ramp Sites

By Bob Heimbach

The handicapped ramps that dot Muni's light-rail islands across the city will soon be a fixture along the J-line in Noe Valley. Mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991, the federally funded ramps have recently passed several bureaucratic hurdles in Muni and the Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT).

The ramps now come before the Land Use Committee of the Board of Supervisors on Feb. 1.

Pending final approval by the board and Mayor Brown, the ramps are slated to be built on Church Street at 24th between Jersey and Elizabeth, and in the two blocks of Church between 29th and 30th streets. Towaway zones (no stopping anytime) would be established on the east side of Church from 24th to Jersey, and from Day to 60 feet north of 29th Street; and on the west side of Church from 24th to Elizabeth, and from Day to 30th Street.

At both sites many parking spaces will be lost (16 at the 24th Street site alone), and local shopkeepers have been actively seeking ways to recover them in hearings before an ad hoc committee of DPT and, more recently, before the full Parking and Traffic Commission.

To date, Muni has proposed replacing only two spaces on 24th Street, by creating a bus boarding cutout in front of Shufat Market. At the end of Church Street, Muni recommends diagonal (45-degree angled) parking on the north side of 29th Street and the south side of Day.

Although expressing concern about the impact on small businesses in the neighborhood, the Traffic Commission has tentatively approved the plan while asking Muni to seek further replacement spots by angling parking.

"The loss of parking is a body blow to the neighborhood's small business," said Wayne Basso, owner of Noe's Bar and Grill at 24th and Church. "I see some of my trade, which parks near Noe's, moving to 24th and Castro, where there is a large public parking lot."

Basso has proposed that the city buy the 10-space private parking lot at Laundreland laundromat on the corner of 24th

and Church streets, or that the ramps be moved back to the blocks between Jersey and 25th and 22nd and 23rd streets.

The Boston Market chain has already inquired to buy Noe's, Basso said, and he envisions the shops along his corner being pressured to sell by other franchises.

"At the very least, the city could have done a marketing survey on the projected impact on shopkeepers' business before moving on this," Basso said.

Basso is currently circulating a petition at Noe's and Shufat Market protesting the present configuration of parking changes.

Meanwhile, the Outer Church Street Merchants Association is also petitioning the city to shift at least one of the two ramps earmarked for the last two blocks of Church Street, to 30th Street.

"It's not just the merchants, but the church [St. Paul's], the senior center, and many residents in the neighborhood who are united in their opposition to the present locations chosen by Muni," said Tom Maravilla, co-owner of MikeyTom Market at Church and Day.

In late January, the group had collected more than 1,500 signatures on a petition suggesting a 30th Street ramp placement. Maravilla had also arranged a meeting with the mayor's office, to ask for help in negotiating a compromise with Muni.

"We're willing to accept the ramps at this intersection, but there's no reason both [incoming and outgoing J-Church platforms] have to be located in the two short blocks of Church where all the shops are concentrated," Maravilla said.

The parking changes now move before the Land Use Committee, where supervisors Migden, Bierman, and Teng will decide any alterations before sending them along to the full Board of Supervisors. The hearing will be held Feb. 1 at 10 a.m. at 401 Van Ness Ave., Room 410. □

*At press time, the Voice learned that the City Planning Commission, at its Jan. 25 meeting, had tabled until Feb. 15 the issue of whether Muni's ramp locations conformed to the city's master plan. The meeting is scheduled to start at 1:30 p.m. in Room 428 of the War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Ave. Residents are encouraged to call 558-6308 and confirm that case number 95.610R will be heard.*

crime-solving homicide inspector duo of Sanders and Hendrix, was promoted to assistant chief. The deputy chief positions went to Richard Holder at the Field Operations Bureau, William Welsh in Administration, and John Willett in Investigations. Congratulations to all.

Fred Lau's appointment to chief by Mayor Brown was as stirring as Lau's comments after receiving his gold star. Lau's message was one of hope, fairness, and crime control within the neighborhoods and the department. He vowed to end the consent decree, a federal court or-

der mandating hiring/retention goals of women and minorities.

My jaw dropped when I heard that. I've spent my 11-year career under the decree; I was hired under it after seeing an all-women recruitment poster, whose production I found out much later was directed by the decree.

The image of a department without the need for a decree would be such a welcome sight. I applauded loudly and felt as much pride for my department and new chief as I felt so long ago when then-chief Con Murphy gave me my star.

As a different "Con," Sgt. Con Johnson, said to me just after the ceremony, "It's a new day, Lois." So it is. Welcome, Chief Lau. □

*Officer Lois Perillo is the community police officer for upper 24th Street and residential Noe Valley north of Cesar Chavez Street. At press time, she was set to attend a community meeting at St. Philip's Church, organized to address a carjacking and series of street robberies in Noe Valley since Jan. 1. Both Officer Perillo and the Voice will cover these issues in next month's edition. In the meantime, if you need to reach her to discuss a community problem, call Mission Station at 558-5400.*

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Klara Larsen and Louise Chelifoux (l. to r.) are among eight siblings in the Ashman family whose marriages approached or exceeded the 50-year mark. They met their husbands Frank Larsen (l.) and Ralph Chelifoux at their church on Eureka Street.

Photo by Beverly Thorp

## A Family With a Grand View Of Marriage

By Denise Minor

**P**atience. Work. Compromise. Communication. Those are the elements that keep a marriage together for 50 years.

Or so say four people who should know — sisters Louise Chelifoux and Klara Larsen (formerly Louise and Klara Ashman) and their husbands of 52 years, Ralph Chelifoux and Frank Larsen. Louise and Klara are from a Noe Valley family of eight siblings, six of whose marriages have lasted at least 49 years.

The four came together in the Chelifoux home—a Grand View Avenue house that has been in the family for close to 60 years—to talk about their five decades together and offer advice to couples just starting out.

"You have to be in accord. You have to compromise," said Ralph, 85. "For instance, if you're planning a trip and one of you wants to go to Rome and the other wants to go to Paris, well, you just do both."

"It's not that we haven't had our problems," said Klara, 79, looking over her glasses as she knitted. "But we had different ethics in our time. Divorce wasn't in our vocabulary."

"You have to have patience," said sister Louise, 77.

"And you have to work at it. You have to try to get along," said Frank, 77.

When pressed, Klara added, "We all have the same religious background, so we have the same faith."

In fact, three of the siblings met their mates at what used to be the Central Baptist Church on Eureka Street and is now the Metropolitan Community Church, a gay and lesbian congregation.

"We all liked to sing," Louise brightened. "Way back, as a family and with our

friends, we used to stand around the piano and sing."

"That is, except for Frank," said Klara, smiling at her husband.

Many of the siblings and their spouses sang in the Central Baptist Choir, where Ralph served as choir director.

"I think it was also the connection of this house that kept us together," said Louise. Everyone else nodded.

"The door was always open," said Frank. "And everyone liked coming here."

### Open House at the Ashmans

The house on Grand View and 21st streets was built in 1937 by Klara and Louise's father, Carl Ashman, a Russian of German descent who had the wanderlust so badly that he moved 25 times before settling on the hill above Noe Valley.

Ashman and his wife, Helen, moved from the Ukraine to Canada as a young couple and had nine children, one of whom died in infancy. In 1920 they moved to Fresno, and a few years later to San Francisco, where they lived in various homes, all in Noe Valley and the Mission District.

Four of the eight children had left home by the time Ashman completed the brown stucco house on the hill, but for all the kids it became a refuge and an anchor.

In fact, it became a hangout for many of the teens in the Baptist Young People's Union. "We could invite anybody up here," said Klara. "Our parents never said no. We were lucky."

It was the openness of their home that helped bring Klara Ashman and her future husband, Frank Larsen, together on a day 53 years ago they both remember clearly. Frank was a Navy man from El Paso, Tex., stationed at Pearl Harbor. (He had survived the devastating bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941.)

One Sunday while on furlough in San Francisco, he was invited to a young adults' gathering at the Central Baptist Church. "A shipmate of mine knew someone from the group, so I tagged along," he said. "Everyone else was paired up al-

ready, so I was paired up with Klara."

Afterwards, the whole group took the trolley car out to Playland at the Beach, the amusement park near the Cliff House at Ocean Beach. "I paid the carfare, because he was broke," said Klara.

They spent the afternoon hopping on and off the trolley at sights along the way. "We were cruising," laughed Klara. "Then a bunch of us came up here to our house and ate tuna fish sandwiches."

Frank hated tuna fish, but pretended he liked it so as not to offend his date.

The two had a few more dates before Frank returned to Pearl Harbor. They corresponded regularly, saw each other two more times when Frank was passing through the city en route to other places, and then married in September of 1943.

Klara talked her elder brother William into loaning them his car, and she and her groom went to Clearlake for a one-week honeymoon. "We borrowed Willie and Frieda's car, used up everyone's gas stamps, and took off," she said. At the lake, they met up with Klara's friend from work, Dottie Forsythe.

"We took our husbands out in a boat and we had to do all the rowing," said Klara, laughing about the fact that her sailor husband didn't know how to row. "We'd still be out there if it were up to the fellas."

Upon their return, Frank was stationed in San Francisco. They lived in Louise and Ralph's apartment on Eureka Street for a short time, then got their own apartment at 317 Eureka. They have three children, Kenneth, Mark, and Steven.

Steven decided to attend his parents' interview with the *Voice* to see if he could learn any family stories he hadn't heard before.

### A String of Weddings in the '40s

Louise and Ralph Chelifoux also met at the Central Baptist Church. Ralph was from North Dana, Mass., and originally came to San Francisco in the late 1930s to visit a cousin who lived in Noe Valley. A young man in his early 20s, Ralph also

wanted to see if there were better job prospects in the West.

On that first visit, he attended services at the Baptist Church and made a number of friends, including Louise Ashman, who was only 14 years old at the time.

The two corresponded by mail until Ralph returned to California three years later, after he received a job offer from a firm in San Carlos. The job fell through, but he decided to go visit his old friends at the church anyway.

"We had a little gathering of the people he knew from the church, and he asked me out," said Louise.

Ralph then got a job as an accountant and office manager for a beauty supply company, and Louise worked in the office of West Coast Life Insurance. The two were married in August 1940 and took a two-week honeymoon driving up to Seattle in a 1936 Ford.

"The weather was beautiful," recalled Louise. "We thought of going into Canada too. But since I was born there, we were afraid that if we crossed the border, they might not let me back into the United States."

Over the next few years, there were many weddings to attend. Klara and Louise's elder sister, Edith, and younger brother, Mike, both married within seven months of Klara and Ralph. Two years ago, the three couples celebrated their 50th anniversaries together in a bash that was written up in Herb Caen's column in the *Chronicle*.

Their elder brother Arthur Ashman of Sunnyvale died 10 years ago after having been married for 55 years. And eldest brother William of Fresno lost his wife of 49 years about eight years ago. At the time of this interview, William Ashman, 90, was in the hospital recovering from a quadruple heart bypass surgery.

Elder brother Elmer died in 1979 at the age of 69. He had been married 45 years. Sister Frieda was married for years and lived in Corte Madera. She now lives in

Continued on Page 13





Remember December? Over the hill in Glen Park, the featured brew at Cafe ? was an eggnog latte as the weather turned chilly. Steve Davis (l.) and Steve Siegel got some rays while hanging in typical coffeehouse manner before the clouds rolled in. Photo by Beverly Thorp

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# The Ashman Family Takes The Long View of Marriage

Continued from Page 11

the Grand View home with her son Raymond and Ralph and Louise Chelifoux.

"You know, Uncle Mike and his wife Doris also met in church," said Steven. The two now live in Kauai, Hawaii, where they work as models in everything from grocery store television advertisements to illustrations for *Reader's Digest*.

"Here's the picture they sent with their Christmas card," said Louise, showing a romantic photo of a tanned, silver-haired couple sitting in low chairs on a beach as waves crash around them.

Mike and Doris retired to Hawaii last year (from Foster City) because they missed it so much. "They raised their three kids there," explained Louise. "Mike was a radio deejay, and then worked as director of public relations for Dole Pineapple."

The Hawaii connection is very strong in the Ashman family. Ralph was stationed in Pearl Harbor for over a year. And Edith Ashman met her husband, Ronald Sperry, on the islands.

After considerable argument over just how Edith and Ronald met, the four decided to back up Klara's version of the event: "Ronald was in the military there, the Merchant Marines. And Edith was a nurse. He was standing on a dock and he dropped his cigarette lighter into a boat docked there. Edith returned it to him." They now live in Corte Madera.

Over the years the siblings and their spouses saw each other regularly. Louise and Ralph had no children, so they were often the designated babysitters. "My brothers and cousins and I always got dumped on them," said Steven. "And we liked it there."

Mike and Doris even sent their children over from Hawaii to spend a summer with his sister.

## A Close Circle of Friends

The couples in the Noe and Eureka Valley neighborhoods formed a pinnacle group 48 years ago, a circle of friends with whom they still maintain contact. It was through this circle that Klara and Louise met and became close friends with Norma Paulsen, whose daughter Diane Flynn organized the meeting between the Ashman sisters and the *Noe Valley Voice*.

Diane remembers many multigenerational gatherings with the Ashman family and their children. "We'd go to Yosemite and Tahoe and Pinecrest together," she said. "Everyone was very tight."

Louise thinks that the extended community, as well as the extended family, helped keep their marriages intact. "We knew each other's problems. We shared the good times and bad times together."

All four have good memories of the neighborhood from their teens and early adult years. What's now affectionately known as Downtown Noe Valley—24th Street—was not yet developed as a commercial district in the 1920s. Most of the action was on Eureka and Castro streets, they said. Behind their home, Twin Peaks was still covered with grassy trails.

"There was much more open space. We used to hike up Twin Peaks all the time," said Klara. They also used to like to walk all the way to Ocean Beach going through Golden Gate Park.

"We didn't have television, or all the things kids have today for entertainment. So we'd walk places," she continued.

Their mother, Helen, also used to walk downtown almost every day. "She'd shop at the Crystal Palace on Eighth and Market streets, and Weinstein's Department Store, then go to Kress for a hot dog and a milkshake. Then she'd take the streetcar back," said Klara.

Klara also used to go downtown daily beginning in 1933, for her first job as a sales clerk at the Emporium.

The sisters also have good memories from their days at Mission High School, and in fact still occasionally launch into their school song and chant. "Do you want us to sing it for you?" asked Klara.

"Oh no, please," pleaded Steven, covering his eyes with one hand.

But at the urging of both the *Voice* reporter and photographer, Klara recited a cheer that began with, "Jack-a-lack-a-lack-a-chug," and ended with, "Sis-boom-bah. Mission High. Rah! Rah! Rah!"

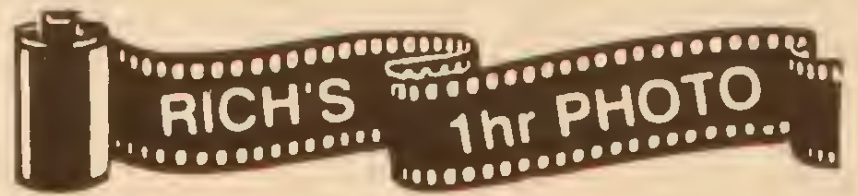
Louise also remembered a development that brought considerable change to the neighborhood—the paving of upper Market Street. "It used to be cobblestones. But in about 1950 they tore those out and paved it." The paved street also brought more houses and more traffic to the neighborhood.

Her father often hiked up the hill to collect some of the discarded stones. He used them to build a terrace that they still have behind the house.

Carl and Helen Ashman lived in the house until they died in 1969 and 1970. Louise, Ralph, Frieda, and Raymond then moved in and have been there ever since.

Of course nowadays there are new furnishings and updated appliances. But Klara and Louise can still point to the spot where they rolled up the rug to dance or where they used to play cards with their friends from the Baptist Church.

And they can still look out the front window and down the hill at the streets of Noe and Eureka valleys, where they strolled with their boyfriends more than 50 years ago. □



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Seth Montfort

PHOTO BY GEORGE PHOTOS

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The boarded-up building at the southwest corner of Castro and Valley streets is one of the neighborhood's biggest eyesores.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

## Abandoned Houses Rarely Make Good Neighbors

By Loren J. Bialik

Walk by the house at 1502 Noe St., at the corner of 28th Street. One assumes that the owner is a conscientious landlord remodeling his or her property. The outside of the house looks new. There are construction materials lying around. And the property is fenced off so that curiosity-seekers cannot get hurt. But looks can be deceiving.

According to 28th Street resident Janice Gendreau, the property has been vacant for at least 10 years. That's how long she has lived next door. And instead of responsible neighbors, the house has been inhabited by a stream of squatters, who cared little about the condition of their temporary living quarters.

In 1985, shortly after moving in, Gendreau noticed that a group of apparently homeless people were camping out in the Noe Street house, then a dilapidated, decaying structure in need of a facelift.

"The house had no working toilet," she recalled, "and the squatters were urinating and defecating in one of the rooms." Gendreau suspected that the occupants were also dealing drugs, so she called the police, who rousted the vagrants. A few months later, however, a new gang of squatters had moved in to take their place.

This time Gendreau feared the inhabitants were casing the nearby homes. (It may not have been the situation back then, but a year ago Gendreau's house was broken into. She believes the thieves gained access through the vacant house.)

She also was concerned about safety. "Children were playing on the front steps, which were rotted, and I feared they would get hurt."

As a first step in solving the problem, Gendreau contacted the owner of the property, Warren Francis Jr. He only paid lip service to her complaints, she main-

tained. "The owner, who lives in San Mateo, said he was going to fix up the property and sell it, but that never happened," Gendreau said. (The *Voice* tried several times to contact Francis, but our calls were not returned.)

Gendreau, who is a co-chair of the group Upper Noe Neighbors, wasn't going to ignore a community problem, especially one that was sitting on her doorstep. She called the city housing inspectors, who came out and cited the building. That prompted Francis to board up the house, Gendreau said, but unfortunately the inspectors never followed up on the citations.

Finally, she contacted Community Police Officer Ed Collins of Ingleside Station. He wrote up a report and passed it along to his captain, who assigned it to Ingleside's code enforcement officer, Tom Feledy.

Officer Feledy launched an investigation of the neglected property, notifying the Health, Police, and Fire Departments of possible code violations. Those departments then cited the owner of the house, and demanded he fix up the property or face serious fines.

"Not only can the city cite and fine [the owners of neglected or abandoned property], but the city attorney can sue them in civil court," Feledy points out. "Code violations are criminal law violations, and if it is serious enough, the violation could be a felony, particularly if it is reckless endangerment of life."

The threats of legal action got Francis motivated enough to repair the outside of the building and erect a fence. But that's where the renovation stopped.

Today, Gendreau's nerves and those of her neighbors are still frazzled.

### Vacant Property Is a Fire Hazard

Upper Noe Neighbor Sue Bowie, who is both a psychologist and real estate agent, finds that abandoned houses are an emotional struggle for everyone involved.

"Typically, the owner is a person or couple who has owned the property maybe 30 or 40 years. Their children have moved out of the city, and when one parent dies, the other moves in with the kids. The kids don't want to sell the surviving parent's



This unoccupied house at Noe and 28th streets looks almost ready to move into, but it's been this way for six years.

home because of the hopes the parent might have of moving back into the house," Bowie says.

Officer Feledy agrees that many houses become vacant when the original owner dies. The children or heirs may be unfamiliar with the property or unaware of its value, and may leave it neglected, he said. In other cases, the owner may live out of town or be someone who wants to do the repairs but who lacks the time or financial resources.

Nevertheless, an empty house can pose a serious threat, especially if it becomes a magnet for vandals.

Feledy notes that transients living in an abandoned property may accidentally start a fire and burn down the building, taking along the adjacent homes. "There are no utilities in these empty places, so the squatters use barbecue stoves and even an open fire. And some of these places become crack houses and crack is smoked, adding to the fire danger," Feledy says.

He recommends that residents start a neighborhood watch group as the best defense against dangers of this sort (call 673-SAFE). They should also keep tabs on any empty houses and alert the police to any suspicious or criminal activity.

In addition, Feledy advises residents to

## The Queen of Abandoned Houses

The house at 1502 Noe is not the only vacant abode in Noe Valley (see accompanying story). Neighborhood activist Janice Gendreau estimates there are at least half a dozen abandoned homes in the hilly area known as Upper Noe Valley.

To view the queen of all vacant houses, she suggests you take a stroll down Castro Street to Valley. There you'll see an unpainted house on the southwest corner. Though boarded up, it has gaping holes that allow intruders to enter through the back. Electrical wires hang down from the sides of the building. The wooden fence has ruptured in numerous places.

*Continued on Page 17*

call 553-0123 and ask the police dispatcher for the code enforcement officer in their area. (If you live in Noe Valley south of Chavez-Army Street, call Feledy at Ingleside Station, 553-1603. Those living north of Chavez should check with Mission Station at 558-5400.)

Finally, if all else fails, neighbors can sue the owner of neglected property in small claims court for creating a "public nuisance."

According to Ingleside Capt. Michael Dower, "Neighbors who team up and file such civil suits together have been very successful — even in some of the most crime-ridden areas — in forcing property owners to accept responsibility for problems affecting the neighborhood."

### House Still Unoccupied

What's the current status of 1502 Noe St.? It's still vacant and looks like a half-finished remodeling project.

"It's been six years since the property owner has done anything further with it," Gendreau says. "The inside remains gutted, and people still break in. I won't be satisfied with the situation until someone moves in and takes care of the place."

Let's hope the owner is listening. □

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Chris Sequeira leads his calming, meditative tai chi class four nights a week at the Noe Valley Ministry.

Photo by Beverly Sharp

## Abandoned

Continued from Page 15

There is no discernable house number, but it would appear to be 2212 Castro.

Would you believe the owner of the property lives in a house around the corner?

According to public records at City Hall, Margaret Lynch is the title owner. She resides on Valley Street with Joseph Lynch, and under their own names or together, they own 10 properties. In fact, like in a game of Monopoly, one can hardly advance down the 2200 block of Castro without landing on a piece of their real estate.

And they own a hotel too, the Hotel Pierre at 540 Jones St. in the Tenderloin. Their 10 properties are assessed (usually far less than the actual value) at \$862,000.

The *Voice* reached Margaret Lynch in October, but she was reluctant to talk with us. She said emphatically (albeit incorrectly), "I'm 97 years old, have owned the property for 198 years, and lived in Noe Valley for 172 years. It's not any of your business what I do with my property."

In November, Margaret's son, attorney Timothy Lynch, said his mother and Joseph Lynch, his uncle, were planning to tear down the vacant house, and another vacant property next door to it, early this year. "They're putting up condominiums or apartments," he said.

But Bill Ryan, who has lived on 29th Street around the corner from the Lynch family for 60 years, doubts the condos will materialize. "Those properties have been empty for over 20 years," Ryan said. "Pigeons have been the only tenants."

Jerry Horovitz, a tenant of the Lynches for the past 15 years at another of their Castro Street properties, is also skeptical. "When I complained that my back porch was rotting, leaking, and apt to fall in, Mrs. Lynch's response was, 'When was the last time we raised your rent?'"

Horovitz said people often stop him to ask if one of the vacant houses is for sale (they're not). He is completely baffled at why the Lynches haven't sold or taken better care of the property.

When this reporter dropped by again in early January, the property at Castro and Valley showed signs of a cleanup.

Sometimes just asking a few questions brings results. □

—Loren J. Bialik

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Didgeridoo Master Stephen Kent  
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# A Personal Guide to Yoga and Other Gentle Movement

By Stephanie Levin-Gervasi

If you're seeking a gentler, kinder road to fitness this year, you won't have to wander far from home. Healthy, non-aerobic options abound in Noe Valley, including yoga and tai chi, as well as bodywork classes, all taught by superb instructors who bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the community.

Admittedly, my little guide to fine-tuned fitness is not without bias. I'm a health-junkie—an ardent yoga practitioner, a dabbler in tai chi, and a recent convert to a bodywork technique known as Pilates.

The following roundup is based on my firsthand experience, and doesn't comprise Noe Valley's entire fitness picture. But if you'd like to explore a few options, here are some places to start.

### Chris Sequeira's Graceful Tai Chi

Four nights a week at the Noe Valley Ministry, Chris Sequeira—a small-framed man who appears much younger than his 40 years, teaches his weightless dance through space, which is how I like to describe tai chi.

But if you ask Sequeira, he'll tell you that tai chi is a form of moving meditation derived from a martial art.

"We warm up the joints, arms, and hips with gentle exercises. We wake up the *chi* [our natural flowing energy], then quiet it," he says. "I don't concentrate on tai chi as a martial art, but as a solid structure to journey through life, maximizing one's strength and integrity with the least amount of strain. It's relaxed, informal, and fun."

Sequeira's sojourn into tai chi began 20 years ago during a troubled life passage. In 1982 he linked up with the San Francisco Healing Center, and 10 years ago he began teaching in Noe Valley.

"Tai chi is a companion, a stable force in my life," says Sequeira, who is also a talented guitarist, performing in cafes and at private concerts.

Practiced for centuries in China to improve endurance, flexibility, and balance, tai chi charges that both nature and the self consist of two energies—the *yin* (gentle) and *yang* (force). Tai chi movements, which take their names from animals, are designed to harmonize and balance these conflicting energies in the body and mind. It requires no mats, props, or machines, so it can be done on rooftops, at the park, or in your living room.

Sequeira's 90-minute group classes are non-competitive and individually paced. I'll warn you, though, our zealous western minds, trained to memorize and perfect, often butt heads with tai chi's "go with the flow" spontaneity. Thankfully, Sequeira creates a meditative environment with plenty of relaxing warm-ups.

The first 20 minutes, participants sit on chairs in a circle while meditating and practicing subtle exercises to stretch the legs, arms, and upper body. Sequeira then stands and leads the class in slow, graceful movements resembling ballet.

Tai chi calms the mind and opens the joints, making it a worthy practice at any age. But don't think for a minute that you won't work up a sweat. The "long" form (as opposed to the short, which contains fewer and gentler movements) challenges

Continued on Next Page



# The Path to Gentle Exercise

*Continued from Previous Page*

both muscle and spirit.

Once I lighten up, let go of the day, and quit worrying about the position of my right hand and left foot, I find myself floating through the movements like a delicate white crane.

For details, call Chris Sequeira at 773-8185 or 756-6857, or stop by the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. (upstairs sanctuary), at 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Beginner classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday; an introductory class costs \$5.

## Institute Still Limber After 25 Years

Yoga may have its roots in India, but it's been on the American landscape for some time. Although there are eight basic forms of yoga, the most widely practiced is hatha yoga, which consists of a series of "poses" or postures (*asanas*) and breathing techniques (*pranayama*). Yoga not only stretches the limbs, but builds strength, flexibility, balance, agility, and coordination. It's also a great stress-reducer.

One of the oldest yoga centers in the city is the Integral Yoga Institute, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. Housed in a stately, four-story brick Victorian at 770 Dolores St., Integral Yoga offers ongoing yoga classes and workshops, which combine poses and breathing with chanting, deep relaxation, and meditation.

You may not sweat or strain here, but you will float home relaxed. I've a cozy corner in my heart for this place, where I first studied yoga in San Francisco. Its staff of 25—all devoted volunteers—have created a wonderful, soothing environment that is especially nice for beginners.

Dr. Dean Omish, who studied with Sri Swami Sachidananda, the Institute's founder, draws from the yoga principles he learned here in his internationally renowned heart program.

Integral Yoga has a full schedule of drop-in yoga classes held Monday through Saturday, ranging in price from \$4 for a single class (first-time students), to \$60 for a 10-class card, to \$180 for three months of unlimited access.

These days the Institute is also offering a number of workshops tailored to specific physical conditions: On Feb. 22, for example, the Institute will sponsor a PMS/menopause self-help workshop from 7 to 9 p.m. (\$10). The following Thursday, Feb. 29, students can take the "Path to a Healthy Back Through Hatha Yoga," from 7:30 to 9:10 p.m. (\$7). You are asked to bring a towel or mat, wear loose clothing, and come with an empty stomach (don't eat for two hours before the class).

For complete information, call the Institute at 821-1117.

## Yoga in Our Own Back Yard

There's another, newer yoga outlet right in the heart of Noe Valley. In September 1994, Susan Branum took over as director of Back Room Yoga and Bodyworks (BRYB), located at 1199 Sanchez St., at the corner of 25th and Sanchez streets. She remodeled the space, and brought a broad spectrum of talents and expertise under one roof.

A decade ago, Branum's professional dance career was foiled by an injury. Determined to keep dancing, she sought orthopedic massage (a form of massage for soft-tissue injuries), then plunged into yoga, and finally discovered the work of Joseph Pilates, a Greek living in Germany in the early 1900s whom many people consider the first physical therapist. Pilates (pronounced "pil-LOT-ees") devel-



Susan Branum often works one-on-one with her clients at Back Room Yoga and Bodyworks, a "community wellness center" on Sanchez Street that offers yoga, massage, primal gym, and a body-conditioning technique known as Pilates.  
Photo by Beverly Thorp

oped a series of mat and apparatus-based exercises that dancers have used for decades to stretch muscles without creating bulk, enhance abdominal strength, and move, as Pilates put it, "with spontaneous zest and pleasure."

At BRYB, Branum doubles (actually triples) as a Pilates trainer, yoga instructor, and orthopedic massage specialist. She also employs eight yoga and bodywork teachers, and emphasizes that BRYB is more than just an exercise and physical therapy studio.

"It's a community wellness center that integrates the heart, body, and mind," Branum says. "Our classes are based on a commitment to health and community. BRYB is a place where individuals can retreat and feel at home while they learn."

Not long ago, a bout of relentless back pain convinced me to invest in a series of Pilates sessions. Several of my friends had recommended Pilates for back pain and to tone up after the birth of my daughter.

According to Branum, Pilates is the perfect blend of yoga and Nautilus techniques. "It also teaches people how to work from the inside out. It's a gentle form of whole-body conditioning that uses an assortment of machines, props, and visualizations."

Each movement that you learn on the mat corresponds to a movement on the machines. For example, during one "imprinting" exercise, Branum had me lie on my back and imagine that my vertebrae were dropping one by one into wet sand.

In only a few sessions, I discovered how to exercise my abdominals in order to strengthen my back. Joints opened, ten-

sion dissipated, and I smiled at the world. I should have started with Pilates years ago.

BRYB offers different styles of yoga, too: hatha, Iyengar—which pays more precise attention to alignment and posture than hatha yoga and is often used in physical therapy—and Kripalu, which favors a more introspective approach aimed at releasing emotional and spiritual blocks.

Some instructors bring elements from other disciplines into their yoga classes. Deborah Franzini, for instance, incorporates the Feldenkrais method—a technique that helps to repattern old, incorrect ways of moving—into her gentle yoga classes.

Also available at Back Room Yoga are classes in "primal gym," a new form of exercise that explores a dramatic range of rhythms and movements. According to instructor Kate Jones, "Primal gym creates a context to expand our entire palate of movement potential, and allows the body to discover its instinctual, natural core of movement."

I think what she's saying is, why flutter like sparrows when we can spread our wings and soar like eagles?

If you call the studio at 821-2979, Branum will send you a complete schedule of classes, which run anywhere from \$12 for drop-in yoga to \$50 for an hour-long one-on-one Pilates session. (Rates decrease the more classes you take.)

You might also be interested to know that a private "home-wellness" consultation is available through Back Room Yoga for \$75. Massage therapy starts at \$35 per half-hour.

## Breathing with Greta Coates

In 1970, after a fulfilling career as a kindergarten teacher in Germany, Greta Coates came to America to study yoga. She planned a one-year stint of study, but ended up completing a two-year teacher's training course at the Iyengar Institute here in the city. During this time she also discovered Ilse Middendorf's breath work techniques, which she decided to combine with her yoga methods.

Coates never made it back to Germany, and has been teaching students, ranging in age from 20 to 75, at the Noe Valley Ministry for close to a decade. "In the nine years I've taught yoga in Noe Valley, I've developed a kindred connection with my class," she says.

When I signed up for her class, I expected a little stretching and toe-touching. But Coates brought us to our feet and had everyone juggling imaginary tennis balls. With our knees bent and balls flying, we started breathing like uninhibited infants.

"Middendorf allows the breath to come and go on its own, quite the opposite from yoga breathing, which is controlled," Coates explains.

Thanks to her innovative methods (she has distanced herself somewhat from classical Iyengar over the years), Coates fluidly moved the class through each posture in order to obtain maximum body alignment. Her inclusion of Middendorf's breathing techniques helped me to discover new insights into old poses.

Coates recently joined the staff at the Middendorf Center, located at 435 Vermont St. For more information you can contact her there at 955-2174, or drop by her Tuesday evening yoga class at the Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m. One class costs \$10, but discount cards are available.

Till then, by all means breathe normally and walk with your head high. □

Church Street resident Stephanie Levin-Gervasi is the author of the Back Pain Sourcebook, published by Lowell House in the spring of 1995.



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## AUNT HERMIONE'S KITCHEN

### Noodleheads

By Ruhama Veltfort

The house was fragrant with the heavenly smells of Italian cooking, but I was in hell. I had run outside to the deck and was breathing deeply, trying to calm my mind and collect my thoughts. How could I deal with this?

I couldn't believe Aunt Hermione was slipping her gears. She was past 80, and while her body certainly showed her age—she had started using a cane when we walked outside—her mind had always been sharp as a French chef's paring knife.

Now she seemed to be losing it. I'd walked into the kitchen to see a beautiful pot of Italian tomato sauce simmering on the stove, and Aunt Hermione carefully layering it in a baking pan with cheese and...raw lasagna noodles, right out of the box.

On the deck I heard the door open behind me.

"My dear, whatever is the matter with you? You ran out of the kitchen as if I'd set it on fire!"

I gulped. I didn't know how to tell her. I put my arm around her shoulders.

"Let's go back inside, Auntie. It's chilly out here."

"Well, I know that! Why in the world did you go outside?"

"Aunt Hermione," I said, trying to keep the tremble out of my voice. "I guess it's been a while since you've made lasagna, but...and...that sauce smells fabulous, but...um, I think you forgot to cook the noodles."

"Forgot? Certainly not, I never cook the noodles beforehand. It's a big pain in the you-know-what, trying to fold those big slimy..."

I was dumbstruck. Was she a few canapés short of a cocktail party? "But Auntie, we can't eat raw noodles! And neither can the Bogwiches!"

Bob and Debbie Bogwich were our new next-door neighbors. They'd just

moved in, and Aunt Hermione wanted to welcome them with a dinner. I was frantically wondering if I could call Little Italy and order something to go, but how would I make the switch without Aunt Hermione noticing? But it wasn't really the dinner I was worried about. It was Aunt Hermione.

Now she was looking at me as if I was the one whose elevator didn't go to the top floor.

"Of course they will cook, silly girl. They cook in the sauce, while it's baking. It's positively the most delicious way to cook lasagna, and the only sensible way. I learned it from Anna Cahiria, and she was born in Naples!" Aunt Hermione got that faraway look in her eyes.

I sighed. "Who was Anna Cahiria?"

"Why, she was Marie Cabiria's mother-in-law, of course. You know, during the war. Our whole crowd, all the girls, came up here to San Francisco, you see, because the boys were all gone in the war and we could get good jobs in the city. The Willis girls and I worked for the Bank of America, in the main office, and we all roomed together in a cute little apartment in North Beach, right next door to the Cahirias'."

"I didn't know you ever did that, Auntie." I was truly surprised. I hoped she wasn't just confused.

She blushed. "Well, actually, I only lasted three months. But what fun it was! Oh, it was an exciting place to be in those times! Marie and her family lived next door, the mother-in-law too, and that was how I learned to cook Italian food. She *never* cooked the noodles for lasagna first. She just took them right out of the box.

"Of course, I've changed the sauce over the years." She winked. "I have my own secret ingredients."

I still didn't believe it. An Italian lady, I thought, would have been using fresh pasta, not noodles out of a box.

But that night with the Bogwiches, I had to eat crow along with my lasagna. The noodles had cooked to a perfect *al dente* texture.

Aunt Hermione watched me take the first bite.

"See," she said, "what did I tell you? And I bet you thought I was a few chimichangas short of a combination plate!" □

### Mrs. Cabiria's Lasagna

#### Lasagna Sauce

##### Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/2 pound mushrooms, cut into pieces
- 1 large yellow onion, chopped
- 6 large cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 small Japanese eggplant, chopped
- 1 28-ounce can peeled Italian-style tomatoes
- 1 28-ounce can crushed tomatoes
- 1 8-ounce can tomato sauce
- 1 6-ounce can tomato paste
- 3/4 cup red wine (Burgundy type)
- 1 teaspoon each dried basil and oregano
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Heat the olive oil in a large pot until a light haze forms. Add the chopped raw vegetables and cook until the peppers, mushrooms, and eggplant are soft and the onions transparent. Add the tomatoes, tomato sauce, wine, herbs, and spices. Cover and simmer very slowly for two to three hours, stirring occasionally. (Note: This also makes a delicious sauce for spaghetti or ravioli.)

#### Lasagna

##### Ingredients:

- 1 pound ricotta cheese
- 1 pound mozzarella cheese, sliced very thin
- 1 cup grated dry cheese (parmesan, romano, or a mixture)
- 1 one-pound box lasagna noodles

Place a layer of sauce in a large (9" x 13" x 2") baking dish. Cover with a layer of raw lasagna noodles. Cover this with a third of each of the cheeses and another layer of sauce. Repeat, ending with a layer of cheese. Cover tightly (use foil if dish has no cover) and bake at 350 degrees for one hour. Remove the cover for the last 15 minutes of cooking. Serves 8 to 10.

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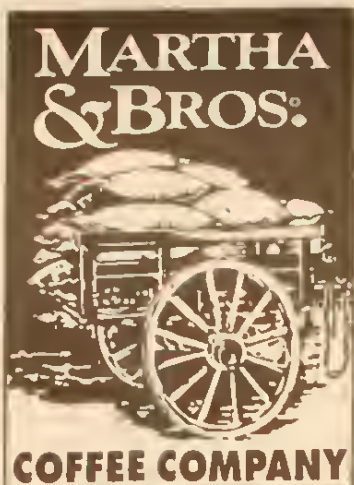
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# SHORT TAKES

## Let Them Eat Crab

St. Paul's Elementary School will hold its sixth annual Crab Feast Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 10, in the cafeteria of St. Paul's High School, 317 29th St.

Doors open at 5:45 p.m. with a no-host beer and wine hour. Dinner, which includes rigatoni, salad, and French bread, will be served at 6:45 p.m.

Tickets—\$22.50 per person for a full dinner and \$10 for a pasta dinner minus the crab—are on sale until Feb. 5. They may be purchased at 180 Fair Oaks St. (formerly Jamestown Community Center) or at St. Paul's Church rectory, 221 Valley St. All proceeds benefit St. Paul's Elementary School.

For more information, call Sister Ann Cronin at 648-2055.

## Be a Book Fairy

Small Frys kids' clothing store on 24th Street will sponsor its second annual Books for Kids program this month.

Last year over a dozen San Francisco preschools and day care centers participated in the program and earned hundreds of dollars in free books for their shelves.

Here's how it works: Small Frys donates \$5 in books to the school of your choice for each \$20 you spend in the store during the month of February. The shop is located at 4066 24th St., between Noe and Castro.

"This is a great way for our store to give back directly to the children of the families that shop in our store," says Small Frys owner Carol Yenne, adding that she hopes to have over 20 schools participating this year.

The books, published by Scholastic, Inc., come in hardback and paperback, and feature a selection ranging from Mother Goose nursery rhymes to novels for young adults. For more details, give Yenne a call at 648-3954.

## Lend a Hand at Alvarado

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to "make a difference" in a child's life, you might try volunteering at Alvarado Elementary School, 625 Douglass St.

Volunteers can help out in any number of ways, from shelving books in the library to going over homework, to simply reading with a child or monitoring children getting on and off the school bus.

Art for Lunch, a new program funded by the parents at Alvarado, needs volunteers to open the art room during lunch hours (11 to 11:50 a.m., or 11:50 to 12:30

p.m.) and supervise children with planned art activities. "The more adults who volunteer, the more kids who can participate," says Nancy Hawkins, Alvarado's outreach consultant.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters is a program that pairs one adult with one youngster, to provide individualized emotional and academic support.

"One-on-one attention from a volunteer makes such a difference," notes Hawkins. "If I have to break the news that a big brother or sister can't make it because of a work deadline, the disappointment is so evident in the kids' faces."

To get involved, call Hawkins at 695-5699 during school hours, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On another Alvarado front, Principal Sande Leigh wants to alert the neighborhood to the fact that Alvarado will be getting some major "deferred maintenance" work done this summer, including a new exterior paint job. And she wants neighbors to have a chance to express their opinion on the color.

"The neighborhood should be a part of the color selection process," says Leigh. "After all, the staff at Alvarado cares more about the interior paint job, because we're on the inside. But you're on the outside. So we want our neighbors, especially those in the immediate Alvarado vicinity, to help us choose the best color scheme."

Leigh points out that the funding for the renovation work, which also will include interior painting, new carpeting, kitchen upgrades, electrical work, and roof repairs, comes from Proposition A, "your tax dollars at work."

As soon as the planning process is further along, Leigh says, she will organize a community meeting, "hopefully by March or April." Stay tuned to the *Voice*, or call Alvarado at 695-5695.

## Training for AIDS Hotline

If you'd like to help in the fight against AIDS, you can become a part of the team at Project Inform's AIDS Treatment Information Hotline. The next hotline training will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 10 and 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The toll-free hotline receives more than 50,000 calls per year from people who are HIV-positive, as well as service providers, social workers, caregivers, and family and friends of those who have AIDS. A related mail service provides callers with the most up-to-date information available. All services are free.

New hotline volunteers work one three-hour shift per week and are asked to make a commitment for at least six months. Shifts are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

If you'd like to attend the training, contact Mark Owens at 558-8669. The hotline number is 558-9051.

## Amnesty at the Ministry

Amnesty International Group 80, one of several Bay Area chapters of Amnesty International, has found a new home—at the Noe Valley Ministry. Beginning Feb. 1, the human rights group will meet every first Thursday of the month in the meeting room at 1021 Sanchez St.

"We've always felt an affinity for Noe Valley. We table on 24th Street regularly because that's where we seem to get the most support and the most signatures on our petitions," says group coordinator Wayne Ditzle. For the past several years, the members of Group 80 have been meeting in one another's homes.

Ditzle says anyone interested is welcome to join the group. Currently, its members are working on behalf of a Tibetan nun who was jailed for participating in a political rally. They also raise funds to help support an Argentinian woman who is raising her granddaughters following the murder of her daughter and son-in-law. For information, call Group 80 member Denise Minor at 661-3016.

## Strings and Storytelling

There are two almost simultaneous performances in neighborhood churches on Sunday, Feb. 18. So half of you should go to one, and half to the other.

First, at 2 p.m., as part of the Sunday Afternoons at the Ministry chamber music series, the five-member instrumental ensemble Sonus Imaginorem will present the West Coast premiere of *Quixotic Callings*, a piece for viola and cello by Bay Area composer Ketty Nez.

According to series director Karen Heather, "*Quixotic Callings* is a big, intense work with a jazzy feel, reflecting the composer's musical roots."

Sonus Imaginorem—composed of Candace Guirao and Kathy Stenberg on violin, Kris Yenny on cello, Michel Taddei on double bass, and Eric Zivian on piano—will also perform the more classical *Suite for String Quintet* by Janacek and works by Dutilleux and Ligeti.

Tickets are available at the door at 1021 Sanchez St., for \$10 (general admission) or \$5 (seniors/students). Call 282-2317 for additional information.

Meanwhile, at 3 p.m. on Feb. 18, Ron Jones, an Emmy Award-winning monologist who has been showcased in the city's Solo Mio festival, will give a special performance at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, 455 Fair Oaks St.

Storytellers are a hot commodity these days, and Jones, a native San Franciscan, is one who has developed an international reputation as a raconteur. He's also published more than 30 novels, and has appeared on *Donahue*, *Good Morning America*, and the Studs Terkel radio show.

Jones's stories are family entertain-



With his window to the world on Sanchez at Duncan, Winnie the Pooh can watch for Christopher Robin to come back home and relate those playtime adventures from around the corner. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

ment, but his subjects rove from Humphrey Bogart and the San Francisco Special Olympics basketball team to an exorcism at Nuremberg. He will be accompanied by guitarist Ken Martha.

Tickets, available at the door, are \$6 single admission (\$4 for seniors and students) and \$10 for families. For more information call Lee Hopkins at 824-0835.

## Sustaining a Green Future

Starting in February, San Francisco will join a growing number of cities around the world in developing a "Green Plan" for long-term sustainability. Sustainability is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The aim is to get the whole city, including those who rarely participate in civic matters, to come together to discuss how to provide for the physical and other needs of the population while reversing the trends of increasing pollution and environmental degradation. This community collaboration is operating under the name "Sustainable San Francisco."

City residents and those who work in the city are invited to join "City Circles," working groups that will draft the plan over the spring of 1996. The process—spearheaded by the Commission on San Francisco's Environment, the City Planning Department, and the nonprofit organization Sustainable City—will culminate in a large public event in June. The first series of City Circles will start the week of Feb. 5. For more information, contact Sustainable City at 775-0396.

This month's Short Takes were written by Jane Underwood and Melanie Norden.

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# The Noe Valley Voice

**NOW:** Register for the AIDS DANCE-ATHON benefit, to be held Sat., March 9, from 7 pm-midnight. Call 392-9255 for information.

**NOW:** The 1996 International Aviation ART CONTEST is open to ages 6-17. Call Caltrans' Aeronautics Program at (916) 322-9947 for an entry form.

**NOW:** Good Vibrations offers a BRIDAL REGISTRY for couples of all persuasions. 1210 Valencia St. 974-8985.

**FEB. 1:** The Housing and Land Use Committee of the Board of Supervisors holds a PUBLIC HEARING on diagonal parking and towaway zones proposed for the intersections of Church and 24th and Church and 30th, to accommodate wheelchair accessible ramps. 10 am. War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Ave. Room 410. Room 410. 554-5184.

**FEB. 1-10:** Theatre Rhinoceros presents Sara Felder's *The Lady Upstairs*, a love story about ATOMIC FISSION. Wed., Sat., 8 pm, Sun., 3 & 7 pm. 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

**FEB. 1, 8, 22 & 29:** The Mandala FOLK DANCE Center offers weekly ethnic dance nights with instruction, Thursdays from 7:30-11:30 pm. St. Paul's Church, 43rd Ave. at Judah. 648-8489.

**FEB. 1-24:** Lilith Theater premieres a COMIC lesbian play, *Two Fools: A Cross Cultural Romance*. Thurs.-Sun., 8 pm. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St. 621-7978.

**FEB. 1-29:** The City College Art Gallery exhibits PAINTINGS and prints by Raymond DeMars, Steve Chabre, and Virginia Jourdan. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm, reception Feb. 7. 6-8 pm. Visual Arts Building, 50 Phelan Ave. 239-3459.

**FEB. 2:** Don't forget to celebrate GROUNDHOG DAY (in whatever way you see fit).

**FEB. 2-MARCH 30:** PDSTER ART from Poland is on display at the Polish Arts and Culture Foundation's gallery at 1290 Sutter St. Tues., Wed., and Fri., noon-7 pm. 474-7070.

**FEB. 3:** Judy Macks leads a one-day WORKSHOP for mothers, "Beyond the Balancing Act." 9 am-5 pm. St. Aidan's Church, Goldmine Dr. at Diamond Hills Blvd. 821-2310.

**FEB. 3:** The Randall Museum offers a PUPPETMAKING workshop featuring a Chinese lion head to celebrate the New Year. 12:30 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

**FEB. 3:** The California Institute of Integral Studies sponsors a LECTURE by psychologist Edward Hoffman, "The Kabbalah: Doorway to the Mind." 7-9 pm. Lone Mountain Conference Center Room 140, 2800 Turk Blvd. 753-6100, ext. 241.

**FEB. 3:** Musical groups Davka and Strictly Tango perform KLEZMER AND TANGO fusion. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**FEB. 4:** The San Francisco Mystery Bookstore welcomes author STEPHEN GREENLEAF. 1-2 pm. 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**FEB. 4:** The Jewish Folk Chorus leads a Yiddish folksong SING-ALONG at the Jewish Community Center. 1:30-4 pm. 3200 California St. (510) 533-3903.

**FEB. 4 & 18:** The Helen Crocker Russell Library's STORY TIME for ages 4-8 features the topic, "Bugs." 10:30 am. Botanical Gardens in Golden Gate Park. 661-0822.

**FEB. 4, 11, 18 & 25:** CLASSICAL CONCERTS featuring, on alternate weeks, The San Francisco Concerto Orchestra or pianist Seth Montfort, begin at 3 pm. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. 731-3355.



The Edge Festival, Dancers' Group/ Footwork's innovative performance showcase, promises to turn the world upside down with six music and dance performances Feb. 15 to March 24. Photo by Madge Waldo.

**FEB. 5:** Dr. Devora Goldberg moderates a free PET LOSS SUPPORT GROUP at the SPCA, 7:30-9 pm. 2500 16th St. 554-3000.

**FEB. 5 & 21:** Learn valuable CPR SKILLS at the Noe Valley Ministry 7-10 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. Call State of the Heart at 821-0108 for required preregistration.

**FEB. 5-28:** Classes in DIGONG, a medicinal Chinese exercise and movement therapy are held on Mon. & Wed., from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. 50 Oak St., Third Floor. 255-0265 or 661-2080.

**FEB. 6:** Hyla Shifra leads a 10 week class in CORE ASSERTION and Communication. 7-9:30 pm. Call 472-1723 for more information.

**FEB. 6 & 20:** The Noe Valley Library's preschool STORY TIME begins at 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**FEB. 7:** Malisse Enzes teaches an INTERNET CLASS at the Ingleside Branch Library. 7 pm. 387 Ashton Ave. 337-4745.

**FEB. 7:** MYSTERY writers Linda Grant, Jerry Kennealy, and Gloria White discuss their work at the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library. 7 pm. 1801 Green St. 292-2195.

**FEB. 7, 10, & 11:** Project Inform offers VOLUNTEER TRAINING for the AIDS Treatment Hotline. Wed., 6:30-9:30 pm, Sat. & Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Call Mark Owens, 558-8669.

**FEB. 7 & 14:** The Noe Valley Ministry offers MEDITATION learning and practice, "Four Abodes of the Buddha." 6-7:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 285-3448 or 285-7438.

**FEB. 7, 14, 21 & 28:** Toddlers, infants, and parents are welcome at the Noe Valley Library's LAPSITS. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**FEB. 8:** Parents Place hosts a free PRESCHOOL PREVIEW night, to acquaint parents with over 70 facilities. 6-9 pm. San Francisco County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. at Lincoln. 563-1041.

**FEB. 8:** The San Francisco Director of Building Inspection discusses PERMITS and their enforcement at the Friends of Noe Valley meeting. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 285-8016.

**FEB. 9-25:** Footloose at Shotwell Studios presents OAVIO MAMET's "Speed-the-Plow." Fri.-Sat., 8:30 pm; Sun., 7:30 pm. 3252 19th St. 566-6860.

**FEB. 10:** San Francisco School Volunteers offers free WORKSHOPS for parents and volunteers in the public schools. 9 am-noon. Rosa Parks Elementary School, 1501 O'Farrell St. 274-0250.

**FEB. 10:** Strybing Arboretum sponsors a symposium on the structuring and planting of INTIMATE GARDENS. 9 am-4:30 pm. County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. & Lincoln. 661-0668.

**FEB. 10:** The SPCA offers VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION for dogwalkers, cat socializers, and adoption counselors. 10 am-2 pm. 2500 16th St. 554-3026.

**FEB. 10:** Noe Valley AUTHOR Collin Wilcox and Robert Irvine sign copies of their new books. 5-6 pm. S.F. Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

**FEB. 10:** St. Paul's Elementary School hosts a benefit CRAB FEAST in the high school cafeteria. 5:45 pm. 317 29th St. Call 648-2055 for info.

**FEB. 10:** The Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry presents the 18-piece Balinese orchestra GAMELAN Sekar Jaya, accompanied by a troupe of Balinese dancers. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

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# February 1996 Calendar



Catherine Castellanos (left) and Blancett Reynolds act like two fools in Terry Baum's new play *Two Fools — A Cross Cultural Romance*, at Noh Space Feb. 1-24. Photo by Romy Suskin.

**FEB. 11:** The Noe Valley Ministry's CANTATE service of chanting, meditation, and prayer begins at 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

**FEB. 13:** The Trip Trap Troupe performs PUPPET PLAYS for preschoolers. *Anasi and the Moss-Covered Rock*, *The Fat Cat*, and *The Gunniwolf* 10 & 11 am. Noe Valley Library 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

**FEB. 13:** POETS J.R. Brady and Jon Greene read at Keane's 3300 Club. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 333-3494

**FEB. 14:** The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department hosts the tree 19th annual senior citizens' VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE, featuring live music by the Maury Wolohan Band. 12:30-3:30 pm. S.F. County Fair Building, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way. 666-7205

**FEB. 14:** The Noe Valley Library screens the classic FILM *The Scarlet Letter* 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

**FEB. 15-MARCH 24:** Dancers' Group/Footwork present the 1996 EDGE FESTIVAL of performance works. 3221 22nd St. Call 824-5044 for a schedule

**FEB. 15:** The City Planning Commission holds a hearing on Muni's proposed locations for wheelchair-accessible RAMPS at key stops along the J-line. Church & 18th, 24th, and 30th streets. 1:30 pm. 401 Van Ness Ave., Room 428. 558-6308

**FEB. 15:** S.F. State University ANTHROPOLOGIST Philippe Bourgois discusses his documentation of the lives of Puerto Rican crack dealers in *In Search of Respect. Selling crack in El Barrio*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246

**FEB. 15-MARCH 17:** The African-American SHAKESPEARE Company performs *The Taming of the Shrew*. Thurs.-Sun., 8 pm, except March 3, 7 pm. The Next Stage Theater, 1668 Bush St. 333-1918, ext. 2

**FEB. 16:** Community Music Center presents a concert with conversation by JAZZ PIANIST and composer Fred Hersch. 5:30-6:30 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015

**FEB. 17:** The S.F. Mystery Bookstore features a BOOKSIGNING by authors Gloria White and Lora Roberts. 5-6 pm. 4175 24th St. 282-7444

**FEB. 17:** A community HAVOALAH service at the Golden Gate Bandshell is followed by a skyshow at the Morrison Planetarium. 6:30 pm. Call 751-6983, ext. 143, for reservations

**FEB. 17:** The Noe Valley Music Series hosts BEASTS OF PARADISE, a world, folk, psychedelic, and acoustic alternative music group that has been likened to It's a Beautiful Day. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**FEB. 17:** The Noe Valley Library showcases CHINESE LION DANCERS, in honor of Chinese New Year. 3 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**FEB. 17 & 18:** The Community Music Center Orchestra and winners of the annual CONCERTO COMPETITION perform Sat. at 8 pm and Sun. at 3 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015

**FEB. 18:** Sonus Imaginorem performs the West Coast premiere of "OUXOTIC CALLINGS" at 2 pm. Noe Valley Chamber Music at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

**FEB. 18:** Emmy Award-winning STORYTELLER Ron Jones performs at Holy Innocents' Church. 3 pm. 455 Fair Oaks St. 824-0835.

**FEB. 20:** OANNIE MARTIN discusses his debut fiction novel, *The Dishwasher*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.



I Dewa Putu Berata demonstrates his virtuosity on gongs and drums when he plays with the Balinese orchestra Gamelan Sekar Jaya Feb. 10 at the Noe Valley Music Series. Photo by Verissimo Photography.

**FEB. 21:** Johanna Friedman of Beyond the Sea demonstrates and discusses face care using AROMATHERAPY. 7 pm. Noe Valley Library 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**FEB. 21:** Modern Times sponsors a GAY & LESBIAN open reading. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246

**FEB. 21:** David O. Schmidt of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency discusses the ENVIRONMENTAL history of the Bay Area. 7:30 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9604.

**FEB. 22:** Artists' Television Access screens *Scalper Felish: BIZARRE MEDICAL FILMS, 1950-1975*. 8 pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890

**FEB. 24:** The MARINE MAMMAL CENTER hosts volunteer training in Sausalito. Call 979-4357 for info.

**FEB. 24:** The Randall Museum features STORYTELLING with Belinda Sullivan and Marijo, in honor of African contributions in America. 12:30 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600

**FEB. 24:** LANGSTON HUGHES' *The Blues I'm Playing* will be performed by Word for Word at the Bernal Heights Library. 4 pm. 500 Cortland Ave. 695-5160.

**FEB. 24:** Flutist Stacey Petinka, soprano Kathryn Greenwood, guitarist Tom Leisek and pianist Allison Lovejoy perform works by WOMEN COMPOSERS. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015

**FEB. 27:** The Noe Valley Library shows FILMS for pre-schoolers. 10 & 11 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

**FEB. 27:** POETS Catherine Bonetti, Patricia Gale, and R. Robertson read at Keane's 3300 Club. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 333-3494

**FEB. 27:** Koto player Miya Masaoka, saxophonist Bruce Ackley, cellist Saram and bassist Stephano Scodanibbio perform ORIGINAL MUSIC. 8:30 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**FEB. 28:** The Noe Valley Library BOOK DISCUSSION group tackles Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*. 7:30 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**FEB. 29:** John Stauber reads from his exposé, *Toxic Sludge Is Good for You: Lies, Damn Lies, and the PUBLIC RELATIONS Industry*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times. 888 Valencia St. 282-9246

## The Scoop on Calendar

We're back, and so are you! The next issue of *The Noe Valley Voice*, datelined March 1996, will hit the streets Wednesday, Feb. 28, and will publicize calendar events occurring in the month of March. The deadline for items is Feb. 15. Please mail your notice to *The Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Calendar questions or last-minute changes should be directed to Karol at 285-6347. As in past years, items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley events receiving priority. □



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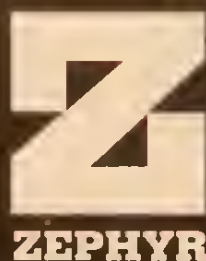
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# STORE TREK

This month's Storetrek features two new restaurants now bustling at the intersection of Castro and 24th streets, and an established bookstore that has moved into larger quarters on 24th Street.



The staff at Hahn's Hibachi on Castro gladly prepares Korean-style barbecue "for here or to go." Photos by Charles Kennard

## Hahn's Hibachi on Castro 1305 Castro St. 642-8151

A bright green awning heralds the new Hahn's Hibachi on Castro, a Korean-style barbecue restaurant and takeout owned by David and Mehe Bass.

One of three Hahn's Hibachi restaurants in the city (the other two are on Polk and Steiner), Hahn's on Castro is located in the spot recently vacated by Simon's Spanish Shop near the corner of 24th Street. The spiffy new cafe seats 40 at red-orange tables in a stylish wood-paneled dining room.

In the large cooking area at the back of the restaurant, Chef René Robinson deftly grills smoked chicken, beef short and spare ribs, pork chops, and shrimp, "all brushed and dipped in our super homemade Teriyaki sauce," he points out.

Hahn's menu specializes in American meat cuts blended with spicy Korean marinades, made of ginger, sesame oil, garlic, and soy sauce.

Traditionally, Korean barbecue restaurants allow patrons to grill their own meats on little burners at their tables, notes co-owner David Bass. "However, when people do their own, it comes out all different ways," says Bass. "Although that's fun, to maintain high quality and consistency, we decided to have a professional grill chef." Since his chef happens to be an expert in American southern cuisine as well, peach and apple cobbler may also be added to the menu, he says.

Diners can choose from 14 barbecue plates or create their own combinations of

pan-sautéed vegetables and tofu, meat, or seafood, including shrimp, calamari, scallops, and baby oysters. All dishes come with rice, a bean sprout salad, and *kim chee* cabbage.

Hahn's offers traditional Korean favorites too, such as *chopchae*, rice noodles mixed with barbecued chicken or beef, vegetables, mushrooms, spinach, onion, and garlic; plus several varieties of tempura and *udon*, noodle soup with vegetables and meat or seafood.

Prices range from \$5.25 for the barbecued chicken, to \$10.50 for the "Meat Mountain," a pile of beef, ribs, chops, chicken, and pork "for meat crazies, those who consume meat because it is there."

Bass says he had already applied for a beer and wine license, and hopes to offer at least eight draft beers in the future. He'll also expand the takeout services to include home delivery.

By mid-January, Bass was gratified to see patrons lining up around the corner. "I just want to say that folks have given us a warm welcome, even better than we hoped for, and we thank you very kindly. It's been tremendous, and we're tickled pink."

Hahn's is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday.

## San Francisco Mystery Bookstore 4175 24th St. 282-7444

On Dec. 27, the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, now in its 21st year, slipped from its tiny cubbyhole on the corner of 24th and Diamond in a new, much larger hideout down the block, on 24th between Castro and Diamond (across the street from Swatdee Restaurant).

Owner Bruce Taylor says his new digs are about twice the size of his old space, so he has increased his stock from 3,000 to 5,000 titles, equally divided between new and secondhand books. "The new ones are easy to get," he says. "You just call someone up and say, 'Send me six copies.' It's the old ones you gotta go find."

Even so, the Mystery Bookstore specializes in vintage whodunits, "which have always been my first love," Taylor says. In the back of the shop, there's a room with signed, collectible editions, some of which have been out of print for 30 years.

The books sell for anywhere from \$1 to \$450 (for Sara Paretsky's first book, *Indemnity Only*). "Some in the genre have sold for \$20,000 to \$30,000. But not in my store," Taylor jokes. "However, prices in the three figures are not uncommon for these older books."

But most paperbacks are in the \$3 to \$6 range, and patrons are invited to bring in their used copies to sell or trade.

Every mystery writer of note is represented—from Agatha Christie and Dashfield Hammett to Sue Grafton and Walter Mosley—and in every style, from the cozy to the hard-boiled, the comic to the police procedural. There's even a genre called "children in jeopardy," says Taylor. "These are books about child abuse and kiddy porn, by such authors as Andrew Vachfs. They're very popular now."



Noe Valley's most elusive bookstore owner, Bruce Taylor, has carted his collection of whodunits to a new storefront on 24th Street.

Other hot new authors include Nevada Barr, John Dunning, and R. D. Wingfield, "a British Raymond Chandler," who is Taylor's current favorite and whose work inspired the PBS series *A Touch of Frost*.

The Mystery Bookstore will feature a series of book signings this spring, usually on Saturdays between 5 and 6 p.m. Noe Valley author Collin Wilcox is scheduled to appear Feb. 10, along with Carmel writer Robert Irvine. On Feb. 17, the lineup includes writers Lora Roberts and Gloria White. (For a complete schedule, see this month's calendar listings.)

Taylor also sells nine mystery periodicals, which are snatched up by mystery huffs who come from all over the city, even the country, to snoop around this well-known establishment.

Store hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Taylor himself mans the register on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

## Miss Millie's Restaurant 4123 24th St. 285-5598

On Sunday, Jan. 7, Miss Millie's Restaurant opened in the storefront long occupied by the Meat Market Coffeehouse, a fixture on 24th Street (near Castro) since the '60s.

Now it too promises to become a neighborhood hangout. "At 8:30 a.m. we posted our menu in the window," says cafe owner Gary Rizzo. "Half an hour later we opened and were swamped!"

Rizzo, who has worked as a caterer in San Francisco and in restaurants in New York and the Midwest, adds, "The great response has been a good shot in the arm after we took seven months to open. But it's come out beautifully, so we're happy."

Starting by placing a huge sculptured teapot and teacup in the front window, Rizzo has completely revamped the coffeehouse to reflect a more homey, '40s-style elegance. The floor alternates squares of tiny cherries with the original brown wood, and vintage china plates line the wainscoting along pale yellow walls, creating a cozy tearoom atmosphere.

And Miss Millie's is baby-friendly. A mom with a double stroller had no trouble negotiating the space, including a beautiful new bathroom.

Breakfast, served from 7 to 11 a.m., features omelettes with either broccoli and cheddar or herbs and goat cheese, as well as other styles of eggs, scrambled tofu curry, and fresh Hawaiian pineapple. Homemade cinnamon rolls are also a house specialty.

The lunch fare, served from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., includes soups (\$3), salads served with homemade focaccia bread, and grilled cheese or eggplant sandwiches topped with roasted peppers (all \$4.50 to \$6.50).

Any time of day, diners can sample Miss Millie's savory selection of roasted vegetables—potatoes, celery, rutabagas, yams, parsnips, carrots, and shallots. And for dessert, Rizzo suggests you try the lemon meringue tart.

Rizzo is currently asking the city for a permit to offer table service (there's a moratorium on full-service restaurants on 24th Street). So for the time being, patrons place their orders at the counter and wait for staff in long white aprons to bring their food to the table.

Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Owner Gary Rizzo has created a cozy tearoom serving breakfast and lunch at Miss Millie's on 24th Street above Castro.



## Art Garden 3885A Chavez-Army St. 826-9426

Through an inadvertent error in our December issue, the *Voice* incorrectly listed the address of Art Garden, a new store specializing in topiary, lamps, Turkish rugs, and other gifts and artwork. The correct location is 3885A Cesar Chavez St. (formerly Army) at the corner of Church Street. The *Voice* apologizes for the mistake and hope you will take a stroll down Chavez and visit Art Garden at your earliest convenience.

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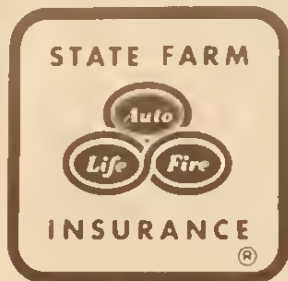


**Good Old Reliable.** Historic streetcars still ply the lines on Church Street.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

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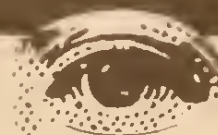
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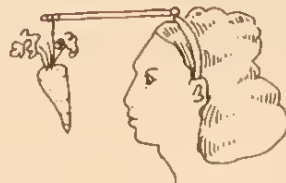


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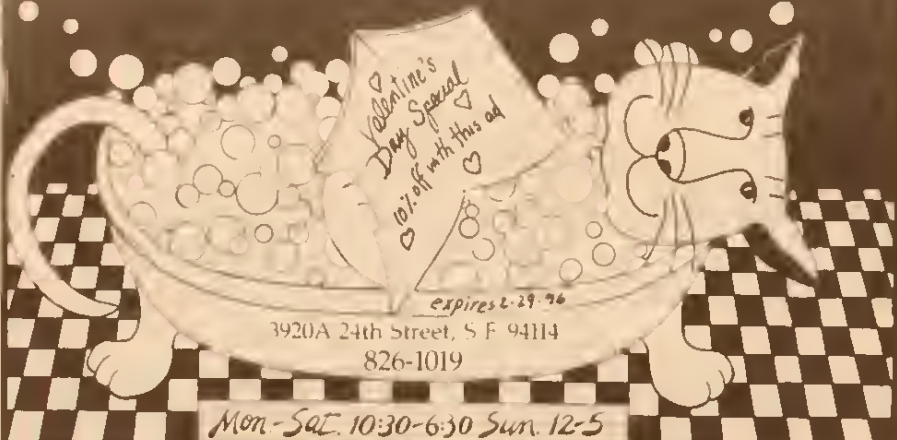
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# HISTORY

## How José Noe's Heirs Tried and Failed to Regain His Estate

By Susan Marina Johnson

One hundred fifty years ago this past December, José de Jesús Noe, the Mexican alcalde from whom Noe Valley gets its name, was granted the vast tract of land called Rancho San Miguel. He built an adobe mansion on the property, near present-day Douglass and Alvarado streets. Fifty years later, a controversy erupted which focused the attention of the entire neighborhood on the almost forgotten Noe family. In an ironic twist of fate, the battle scenes of this conflict may have been played out at the former homesite of Noe himself, in a house on Alvarado Street that still exists today.

On Dec. 23, 1845, José de Jesús Noe was granted one league of land lying southwest of the Mission Dolores by the governor of the Mexican territory of California. Pursuing a vision of gracious rancho living, Noe selected a homesite on the verdant western slopes, from which he had a clear view of much of his own land, the San Francisco Bay, and the hills beyond. Here he built an adobe hacienda for himself and his family, and put his herd of over 2,000 head of cattle to graze in his new domain.

Fate was not kind to José Noe, however, and his fortunes soon reversed. Less than seven months after he acquired Rancho San Miguel, the United States acquired California. His wife died in 1848, the year the adobe house was completed, and soon thereafter, the discovery of gold in California brought hordes of squatters to encroach upon his land.

Noe was required, as were most of the Mexican land grantees, to prove his title twice in succession in the United States judicial system. Insecurity over the final outcome and the financial burden of the court costs were the likely causes of his selling virtually the entire rancho in 1853 to wealthy farmer John Horner and moving to the Mission District. Nine years later, Noe died at the age of 57.



There's a chance that this house at 811 Alvarado St., though renovated many times, may date back to the days of José Noe, the last Mexican mayor of Yerba Buena. Photo by Beverly Thorp

John Horner also had a vision for Rancho San Miguel: he wished to become the father of a new neighborhood. He surveyed a large portion of Noe Valley, which became known as Horner's Addition. He assigned the streets fanciful names such as Crystal, Pearl, and Diamond, and began selling lots. His vision, like Noe's, was cut short in less than a year, when Horner went bankrupt, mortgaged the rancho, and then lost it entirely.

The rancho served as a hone of contention between mortgage-holding capitalists and ended up in the hands of François L. A. Pioche, a French banker who sold off much of Noe Valley to homestead associations but kept 17 acres surrounding Noe's homesite for himself. He called it Pioche's Reservation, and although he owned a fine house in the Mission District, he occasionally retired to Noe's adobe.

In 1867 Pioche's Reservation was purchased by Francis Such, who became the first full-time resident of the site since José de Jesús Noe.

Francis Such, a native of England, established one of the earliest and biggest dairies in Noe Valley on this land, which lay between 22nd and Elizabeth, and Douglass and Ocean House Road. He took for a partner James Lick, nephew of the more famous man of the same name.

In the 1880s, Such was active in the Noe Valley Improvement Club, which was instrumental in obtaining a streetcar on Castro Street. Ironically, when the streetcar was built, there was such an influx of new residents to the western slopes of Noe Valley that the dairies became obtrusive and were forced out by popular

pressure as well as by city ordinance.

When Francis Such sold out in 1887, he had occupied Noe's ranchland for 20 years. It is not known for certain what use Such made of Noe's adobe, but it may have been lived in by Such and his family, James Lick, or the 10 dairy hands who worked at the dairy.

As the years passed by, the integrity of the old Noe tract could not withstand the pressure of rising real estate values. Noe's adobe was taken down in 1890 to make way for the grading of Douglass Street, and the tract was surveyed in 1891 by its new owner, Jacob Heyman. Noe's former homesite became a grid of city lots.

One of these lots, however, was not empty, but contained a wood frame house, owned and occupied from 1890 by the family of one Thomas Judson, a policeman and neighborhood improvement activist. The house stood on Alvarado Street near Douglass just yards from where Noe's adobe had been.

When Jacob Heyman surveyed his otherwise undeveloped tract in 1891, Judson's house did not conform to the street grid—it faced southeast at an angle to it, as if built on large acreage before the streets were surveyed. (The house stands today at 811 Alvarado St.; it was turned to face Alvarado Street between 1900 and 1913.)

Both the placement of the house and the style of its architectural trim attest that Judson's house was almost certainly built before Francis Such abandoned his dairy. If the Such family lived in Noe's adobe, then the wood frame outbuilding might have housed the dairy hands.

Unlikely though it is, there is a possibility that 811 Alvarado dates back even

further, to the days of Noe's rancho. Maps from 1857 and 1869 show two buildings on Noe's homesite, quite near each other, both placed at the same southeast-facing angle. One of these was surely the adobe. Was the other the wood frame house?

Moving ahead to late 1895, in an action which shocked the neighborhood, Noe's descendants sued to regain the former Rancho San Miguel.

They claimed that the rancho had been given to José Noe expressly to benefit his wife, and that according to Mexican law, half of such a gift belonged to the wife, and therefore Noe had violated the rights of his small children and their future heirs when he sold it.

If the courts were to agree, the heirs would be entitled to half of the original rancho.

Before the case went to trial, the Noe heirs made it known that they would grant quitclaim deeds—in other words, drop their claim to individual parcels—in exchange for modest sums. The property owners of Noe Valley felt this scheme to be a form of blackmail, however, and quickly met to form the San Miguel Defense Association, which raised money, hired attorneys, and planned a group resistance to the Noe heirs. Their meeting place was none other than "Judson's Hall," 811 Alvarado St.

The neighborhood leaders exhorted Noe Valley's residents to resist paying for quitclaim deeds. And by and large their pleas were successful. Most of the residents did not pay, and only 38 quitclaim deeds were recorded.

Then in September 1896, the court ruled that the wording in the original grant did not support the Noe heirs' community property assertion, and that the suit lacked merit. Several thousand Noe Valley residents breathed a sigh of relief, and the neighborhood meetings at Judson's Hall returned to the more mundane, if less exciting, issues of electric lights and street paving.

Nowadays, the house at 811 Alvarado belongs to 30-year resident Daniel Erlach, who is 91. The Voice is grateful to Mr. Erlach for giving his permission to photograph the property. □

Susan Johnson is a medical transcriptionist and San Francisco historian. She is interested in hearing from people who have historic Noe Valley photographs. She can be reached at 648-4424.

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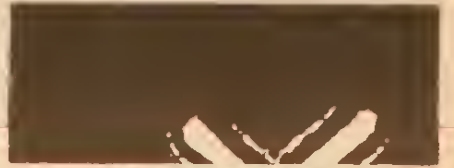
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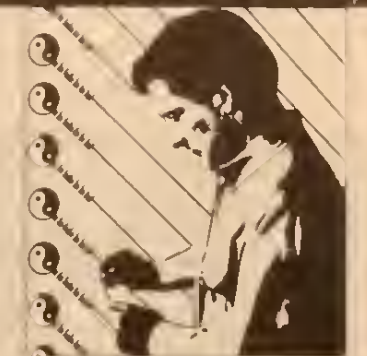


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### Clipper Street SAFE Group

Contact: Don Kern or Howard Johnson, 821-3866  
Mailing Address: 225 Clipper St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Third Tuesday of month, Bethany Methodist Church, 201 Clipper St., 7 p.m.

### Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorf, 826-3867  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

### Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Bruce Muncil, 864-7847  
Mailing Address: 336 Cumberland St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

### Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contacts: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734, Keith Eickman, 282-8988, Dennis Downing, 647-0937, or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

### East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753  
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

### Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484  
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

### Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Kevin Brickley, 285-4938  
Mailing Address: 165 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Twice a year at ICA Auditorium, 24th & Guerrero.

### Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Georgia Finnigan, 285-8016  
Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

### Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990, or Hilda Bernstein, 282-8232  
Mailing Address: 3333 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

### Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Rick Hauptman, 647-0549  
Mailing Address: 1595 Noe St., #6, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

### Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: J. P. Gillen, 821-1515  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

### Noe Valley Senior Center

Call 648-1030 for lunch reservations.  
Mailing Address: 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Monday through Friday for lunch (donation \$1.25), Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 12:30 p.m.

### Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500  
Mailing Address: 284 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Monday of month, Just for You Too Cafe, 1793 Church St., 3 p.m.

### R.A.A.G.E. (Race Awareness Arhilation Group Education)

Contact: 285-5322  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 426199, San Francisco, CA 94142  
Call for meeting times.

### 21st Street 4000 Block SAFE

Contact: Santiago Rodriguez  
Mailing Address: 4014 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Held periodically.

### Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989  
Mailing Address: 403 28th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7:30 p.m. Call for specifics.



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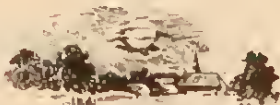


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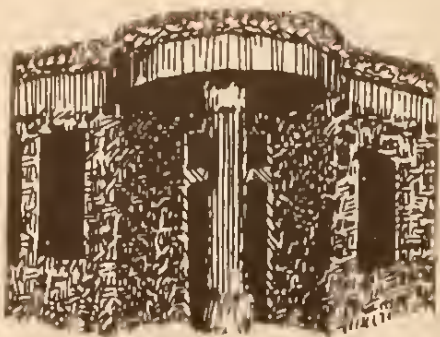
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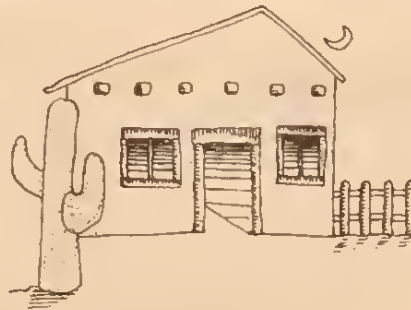
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## Healing Ritual

By Jan Lurie

When I emerge on 24th Street at 6 a.m., the merchants' windows are still aglow, and the streets are dark and quiet under the pools of light. A time to mostly avoid the noise and stinking exhaust from early morning cars and buses taking silent stonelaced people to work.

The long moan of a bus swells to a wail as it labors up Castro Street. The new day is stiff with cold. My joints are stiff too. I set out with gloves on my hands and a scarf over my ears, the shock to my eyeballs bringing a rush of cleansing tears.

The three garbage men in their shiny new truck have already removed the spawn of the last 24 hours, and those on our street who have managed to sleep through that first heralding of a new day will soon get a second wake-up call from the roaring of the streetcleaning truck.

Within blocks my legs assume a longer stride, the second hill opens my mouth, and my lungs expand and contract like an accordion, taking in the clear crisp air. I am moving into the silent neighborhood of mostly family houses, all still dark with sleeping parents and children, old couples that have lived here for 50 years, some alone now that their mates have died.

I walk up the center of empty streets in the gleam of street lamps, turning my head and my thoughts upward to the still-dark sky, where I see the lemon-silver moon and the Venus star, the fast loving twosome to succumb to the coming light.

My labored breathing settles down. I give thanks for the ease with which I glide along block after block, hill after hill, and let myself talk out loud, marching resolutely, gloves off, my whole body now warm and fluid, talking out what clouds my thoughts, my emotions, often arriving at solutions, resolutions.

The most wonderful part of this uplifting ritual is arriving at Kite Hill, where many people come with their big loping dogs to let them run free and romp with one another.

But not now. Now, alone with the moon and the star in the royal blue velvet sky, I pause to open my arms wide to the beauty that surrounds me. Out there lies our glittering city far below, spreading itself to the Bay, where the string of lights from the bridge invites you to follow its hejeweled and looping necklace to the distant glow of Berkeley.

Turning, the opposite view is of houses and apartments banked against a steep hill, a small scooped-out mountain of dotted lights like a toy village from a fairy tale. Towering above them are the winking red heacons of Sutro Tower, guardian of peaks and valleys. All is peaceful.

I go swiftly down the slope of Kite Hill on wide plank steps, repeating each time, "feeling 19 and not a day older," because by then, much of the old body pain is submerged in the fluidity of muscles and bones, and I have grown younger with each surmounted block.

Below is a charming circle of tranquil, tree-lined streets with names like Eagle, Mono, Caselli. I pause to put my arms around a favorite tree, relaxing into its stalwart strength.

The walk back is done with gusto and often a song. By now the sky is full of morning light and the energetic busyness of Noe Valley life is well under way. I am ready for what the day will bring. □

Jan Lurie has lived on 24th Street for 16 years.

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Another grief-stricken visitor to Elvis' grave at Graceland turns back to her copy of *The Noe Valley Voice* for consolation and a look at the Class Ads. Nancy Stiff (yes, that's her real name) traveled from Alexandria, Va., to the shrine near Memphis, Tenn. Photo by Equally Sad S. Smith

## Those Readers Keep Ramblin' On

Anne Sekara takes a break during an uphill hike near the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec Province this September. She and her mother, Michelle, both 27th Street residents, were up north visiting relatives and sharing the English language edition of *The Noe Valley Voice*. It's probably what swung the election.

Photo by Michelle Sekara



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Noe Valley resident Marilyn Hope Smulyan pauses at the Arctic Circle to view the *Voice*, her only companion on a 1,200-mile solo trip in Alaska and northwestern Canada this fall.



Noe Valley residents Judith Ganz and Lou Katz traveled to Nantucket, Mass., this summer carrying the August literary issue of the *Voice* everywhere they went, even to Great Point Lighthouse. This photo, taken by Judith, shows "handsome" Lou sailing on the Nantucket Ferry.



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Illustrated Reminiscences  
by Florence Holub

## Hearts and Flowers

From our kitchen window that overlooks the garden, we can observe a tall, tree-like mirror vine which supports an ancient climbing rosebush. Early in the spring, the bush sprouts an abundance of blossoms that completely cover its round top. Continuing to bloom profusely until autumn, it looks like a gigantic bouquet of pink flowers.

Last September after the final bloom of the season, I noticed that some straggling branches had spoiled the perfectly round shape of the bush. So I climbed an eight-foot ladder and, clutching some clippers in one hand and a handmade hook (a stick with a nail in it) in the other, endeavored to pull down and snip off the offending limbs.

In order to reach the branches, I had to tilt my head back and stretch both arms up. Suddenly, a shaft of sunlight flashed into my eyes, causing such a jolt to my whole person that I was forced to shakily climb down the ladder and abandon my dangerous task.

Although I did not realize it at the time, this event marked the beginning of physical ailments that were to plague me for more than three months. First my vision became fuzzy, and a week later my voice disappeared.

My doctor could find no medical cause for the laryngitis—I had no cold or flu symptoms, and my throat looked perfectly healthy to him. His prescription was to stop talking, which I made a valiant effort to do. (For the complete rundown, see my column in the December *Voice*.)

Two months later, when I went to have my eyes examined, my vision proved so poor that the optometrist decided not to prescribe corrective

lenses, but instead referred me to an eye specialist. The specialist suggested cataract surgery as a remedy for my vision problems, but at the same time referred me to a throat specialist to treat my lingering hoarseness!

It was a frustrating period for me, traipsing from one doctor to another, while not being able to see or speak properly. Frankly, it was a big pain in the neck!

Perhaps that is why I began to rub my fingers up and down my nape, which also felt tender and sore. When I did this, it seemed to me that several bones were out of line. One projected outward and another a bit inward.

This discovery sent me scurrying to my chiropractor, who has treated my loose spine many times over the years. She determined that the neck vertebrae—the very ones that affect the eyes and throat—were indeed out of alignment. She quickly made some remedial adjustments, but I had to return for several more sessions before the bones stayed in place.

Amazingly, after each treatment my vision seemed clearer. To make sure I was not imagining this improvement, I had my eyes retested by the same doctor who earlier was unable to help me. This time he found my reading of the eye chart so improved that he was able to prescribe new glasses for me. On that visit, I managed to thank him properly, albeit hoarsely.

What a relief it was to know that I was not yet ready for the glue factory!

Meanwhile, back at the homestead, the little "goo" factory was still visiting us. I'm referring to the three-inch brown garden slug which for the past six months had been creeping in at night under the slit at the bottom of the back door, leaving silver trails on our rug.

One morning the marks looked like the ones I make when using the vacuum cleaner, only smaller, so I dubbed the little creature "my cleaning lady."

We assumed that my cleaning lady was foraging for food, but what could that be? I asked a friend who knows about these things, but she gave me an unacceptable answer when she said, "Old rotten stuff!" Since our slug can

find plenty of that in our back yard, its tastes must be considerably more refined.

Our visitor seems to favor the corner of the rug directly below the counter where my man Leo spoons his Nestle's Quik into his morning coffee. Our theory is that some of the chocolate powder floats down to the rug, providing an incentive for the creature to return each night for dessert.

One morning we noticed that a particular area of the rug, the spot where our old dog expired years ago, had been lavishly embellished. This led us to speculate that the slug might be the reincarnation of our canine, and so we renamed it "Freddie" in his honor.

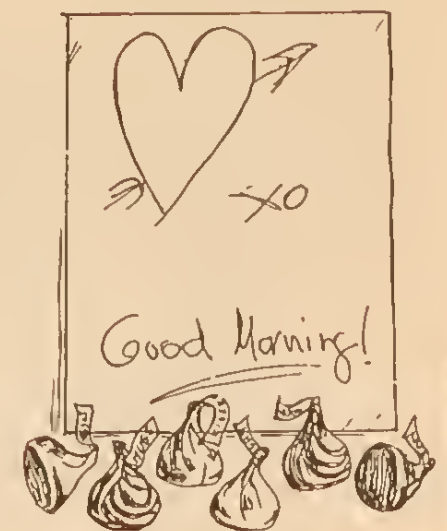
The new pet has a few advantages over his predecessor. He doesn't need to be fed or taken on walks. He does not have fleas, nor does he bark or bite like our feisty terrier did.

On the other hand, he is not the least bit affectionate. And we fear we will step on him in the dark, which would make for a particularly sticky situation. I guess the slug will have to do something completely endearing, in order to win our hearts.

Speaking of hearts, I happened to come across a picture of one that almost led to serious heart trouble. The heart was drawn on a small piece of paper sandwiched between the pages of a book lying on my husband's bedside table. Cupid's arrow pierced its center and beneath it was the message, "Good Morning!" The handwriting did not look like Leo's, and it certainly wasn't mine!

Before I could jump to the obvious conclusion, Leo explained that he had purchased the book months earlier at Carroll's Books on Church Street. The amorous note, which he had just recently discovered, must have belonged to the previous owner of the book, not the present "innocent" one.

I have since turned my attention to a more comforting heart, as well as a



more beautiful one, which now adorns our living room. It's a 20-inch, heart-shaped wreath of dried flowers and grasses in beige and pink tones expertly arranged by Claudia Duggan, who lives nearby on the Sanchez Street hill.

I first saw two of Claudia's arrangements at the Peras' home across the street, where I also met Claudia and told her how much I admired her work. A few days later, this kind lady appeared at our front door, wreath in hand. She presented her creation to me saying it was an expression of her enjoyment of the stories I'd written for the *Voice*.

Whenever I look at the wreath, this lovely and unexpected gift warms my heart, reminding me of our remarkable community and the many talented people living in it.

But with Valentine's Day approaching, I would like to take this opportunity to express some feelings straight from the heart, sending love and best wishes, hugs and chocolate kisses, to the good people of Noe Valley—especially to those who have, in word or deed, encouraged me in my struggle with the written word.

Happy Valentine's Day!

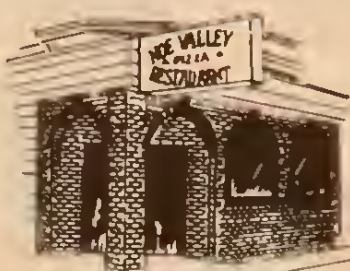
P.S. In January I celebrated my 77th birthday in good voice and vision, thanks to all your support (and a score of excellent doctors!).

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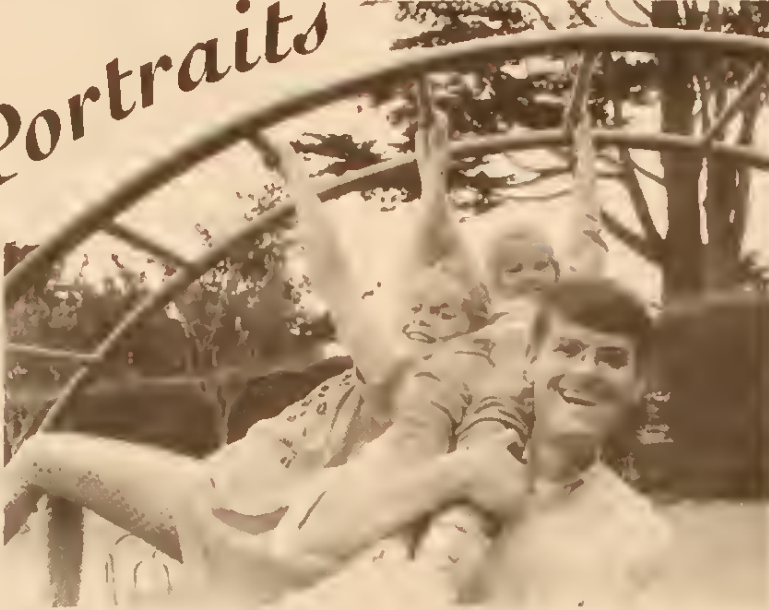
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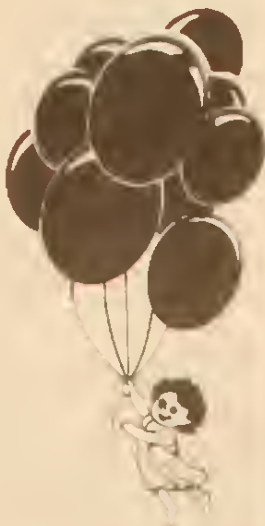


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### New Books - Adult Fiction

⇒ *Morse's Greatest Mystery*, by Colin Dexter, is a brain-teasing collection of 11 mysteries, six featuring the Chief Inspector, and five introducing exciting new characters.

⇒ A man's obsessive search for the truth behind a suicide becomes a personal rite of passage in Bill Pronzini's psychological mystery *Blue Lonesome*.

⇒ Rosa Guy's *The Sun, The Sea, A Touch of the Wind* is the story of a successful Harlem artist who flees to Haiti searching for comfort, but instead stumbles on the rocky path to redemption.

⇒ A second-class burglar unwittingly becomes a laboratory experiment and the Invisible Man in Donald Westlake's weird, comic novel *Smoke*.

### Adult Non-Fiction

⇒ David Gollaher's biography, *Voice for the Mad: The Life of Dorothea Dix*, is an authoritative account of the mental health reformer's remarkable life.

⇒ In *Surviving Natural Disasters*, Janice McCann and Betsy Shand explain how to prepare for and survive all kinds of disasters, including earthquakes, floods, blizzards, and volcanic eruptions.

⇒ *The Relaxation and Stress Reduction Workbook*, by Martha Davis et al., provides instructions for practicing self-hypnosis, autogenics, visualization, and biofeedback.

⇒ Rock Scully, manager of the Grateful Dead, provides intimate details of the lives and personalities of the band in his memoir, *Living with the Dead*.

### Face to Face

⇒ Johanna Friedman of the Castro Street shop Beyond the Sea will demonstrate and discuss face care using *aromatherapy* on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m., at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St.

### Book of the Month Club

⇒ The Noe Valley Book Discussion Group meets Wednesday, Feb. 28, 7-8 p.m., to discuss Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*.

### Films at the Library

⇒ The classic film version (not starring Demi Moore) of *The Scarlet Letter* will be screened on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m.

### New Books - Children's Fiction

⇒ Welcome aboard, and let's go for an exciting trip on the bay by reading *Sail Away* by Donald Crews. (Ages 2-5.)

⇒ The main character seems to have the highest standards for the food she bakes in *How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World*, by Marjorie Priceman. (Ages 3-6.)

⇒ Tanya feels less alone in dance class after she gets to know the new girl in *Tanya and Emily in a Dance for Two*, by Patricia Lee Gauch. (Ages 4-7.)

⇒ In *How Night Came from the Sea*, author Mary-Joan Gerson explains how the Brazilians came to discover the beauty of the night and to have more restful, refreshing sleep. (Ages 6 and up.)

⇒ Teddy gives his younger brother a small alligator, but his action has some unexplained results in *Later, Gator*, by San Francisco author Laurence Yep. (Ages 10 and up.)

⇒ In *Jacob's Rescue* by Malka Drucker, a Jewish boy has many frightening experiences during the time he is hiding from the Nazis. (Ages 10 and up.)

### Children's Non-Fiction

⇒ In some animal species, the father of offspring makes a substantial contribution to the gestation and care of the young.

*Parenting Papas: Unusual Animal Fathers*, by Judy Cutchins and Ginny Johnston, takes a look at these species. (Ages 6 and up.)

⇒ A famous athlete's education, training, and career highlights are described in *Steve Young, Complete Quarterback*, by Terri Morgan and Samuel Thaler. (Ages 8-11.)

### Kids' Programs

⇒ On Feb. 13, at 10 and 11 a.m., *The Trip Trap Troupe* will perform three puppet plays for preschoolers. The regular *lapsits* for infants and toddlers continue at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28.

⇒ Preschool *Story Time* starts at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Feb. 6 and 20.

⇒ *Films* for preschoolers will be shown Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 10 and 11 a.m.

### Chinese Lion Dancers

⇒ In celebration of Chinese New Year, the Lion Dancers perform a colorful spectacle for all ages on Feb. 17 at 3 p.m.

"More Books to Read" was written by librarians Carol Small and Cornelia Van Aken-Sanks.



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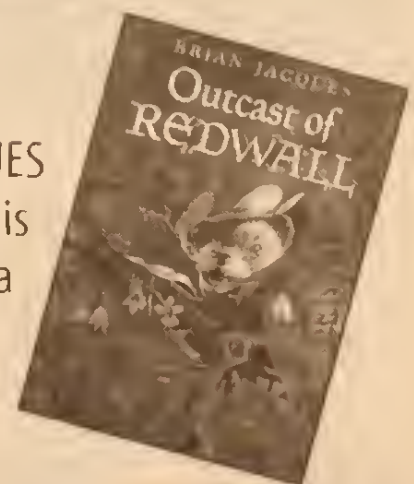
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and now for the  
**RUMORS**  
behind the news

## All the Noe's Fit to Print

By Mazook

**T**HE BATTLE OVER Battle Mountain has turned into a war between developer Seamus McGee and the so-called Neighbors to Save Sanchez Hilltop, a group boasting 700 members.

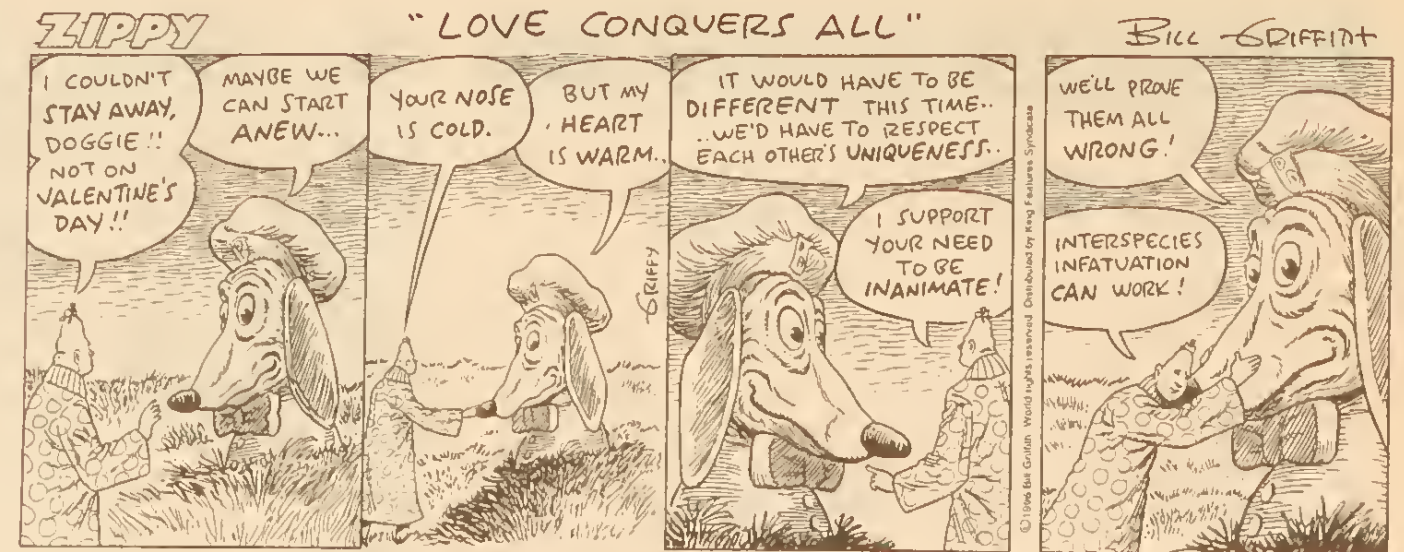
Rumors regulars will recall the neighbors' hue and cry in 1995, over McGee's plans to erect four six-bedroom townhouses on a large parcel of land at 21st and Sanchez. Chief among their worries was the loss of open space and a small Victorian "farmhouse" on the property which has been slated for the wrecking hall.

When I left you in December, the neighbors had appealed McGee's building and demolition permits to the Board of Permit Appeals, and were expecting to make their case at a Jan. 10 hearing.

McGee, however, was able to move the hearing date up a month to Dec. 13. The neighbors then requested a continuance to Jan. 3, which the board granted.

It's now old news that the Save the Hilltop brigade lost their appeal at that hearing by one vote.

The Jan. 3 date gains significance when you consider the political shakeup that took place immediately thereafter: One of the first things Willie Brown did after he was inaugurated as mayor on Jan. 8 was dismiss the entire Board of Permit Appeals, appointed by former mayor Frank Jordan and considered by many to be pro-development.



The new board consists of former Agnos Planning Commissioner Wayne Hu; Carol Cullum, senior board member of the Alice B. Toklas Club; attorneys John McInerney III and Mario Salgado; and Potrero Hill activist Mauri Schwartz.

The hilltop-savers have now filed a petition for a rehearing before the BPA. The hearing on the petition will take place Feb. 7 at 5:30 p.m. at temporary City Hall, 401 Van Ness, Room 428.

They've also opened a second front and are resisting McGee's plans to get an "encroachment" permit from the Department of Public Works. It seems that the grassy knoll leading up (approx. 37 feet) to the hilltop on Sanchez Street is a public right-of-way. McGee wants to build a driveway through—and a retaining wall beside—the right-of-way, and then relandscape it.

But that was *before* the Jan. 24 hearing which DPW had scheduled on the matter. When the Save the Hilltop crew showed up to protest, they were told: surprise, McGee has "withdrawn" his request for the encroachment permit, and therefore no hearing is necessary.

Will a wrecking ball crush the 100-year-old house? Will hullozers soon

pierce the rustic quiet atop Dolores Heights? Will four million-dollar townhouses dash the dreams of many residents for a park and butterfly preserve?

Stay tuned for next month's installment of the sizzling Seamus McGee soap opera "All My Neighbors."

☺☺☺

**FAIR-WEATHER FRIENDS.** Rustico to Go is gone after an 11-month run on 24th Street. The takeout closed, says owner Karen Goldberg, "because there was not enough business" to keep it open.

Goldberg also cites another reason for her lost revenues and Rustico's departure: the Friends of Noe Valley's rebuff of her plans to add seating on the premises.

"I want to thank my customers. I really appreciated their support," says Goldberg, "but I ask a simple question [of the neighborhood]: Are the Friends of Noe Valley really your friends?"

Steering clear of S.F. for a while, Goldberg has opened a new restaurant in Mill Valley called Annabelle's.

The rumor is her old storefront at the corner of 24th and Sanchez will soon be occupied by a juice bar called Tom and Dave's Juice It. Anybody have a problem with that?

Speaking of Friends, FNV's board of directors met in late January to discuss meeting procedures and establish guidelines for dealing with the many requests that are made of the group to endorse or oppose new enterprises, housing developments, and other neighborhood projects. (Miss Millie's, which replaced the Meat Market Coffeehouse, was one of several businesses knocking on Friends' door last month.)

When one of the board members who attended the meeting was asked to comment on the Rustico situation, she observed that Goldberg's problem was with

the city planning code, *not* Friends of Noe Valley.

F.Y.I., the code says that no more than 24 sit-down eateries are allowed on 24th Street between Chattanooga and Diamond (plus a couple of blocks of Castro). We reached our quota years ago. Sorry, but until we change the law, all new food-serving establishments must apply for (and win) a variance.

☺☺☺

**HEADING EAST:** The East & West of Castro Improvement Club has lost one of its leaders to the suburbs.

After 10 years in Noe Valley, Dave Simon is moving to Orinda with his wife, Kathy, and two children, Mark, 5, and Laura, 1.

"We are moving simply because of the school situation here in San Francisco," he explains. "I believe in public education, and we wanted to put Mark into Alvarado, but we were given no assurances that he would go there. It's a sad situation for us because we love Noe Valley so much."

Dave joined East & West upon his arrival in our valley, and immediately began assisting the club's legendary first secretary, Fred Methner, in Fred's war on graffiti. "Every Saturday morning we would walk the neighborhood," and paint out all the damn spots.

Dave is happy to report that because of everyone's efforts to follow in Fred's footsteps, the need for the paint patrols has greatly diminished.

Bye, Dave. Too bad that neighborhood kids can't go to their neighborhood school. That would be too easy.

☺☺☺

LAST MONTH, one of the more intriguing rumors on the strip was that Dr.

*Continued Next Page*

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# RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

Michael McFadden, who has practiced medicine in Downtown Noe Valley (4060 24th St.) for 35 years, was retiring. In fact, the opposite is true.

McFadden says he and Dr. John Pierce, a well-known neighborhood internist who had already begun seeing patients in McFadden's office three afternoons a week, are "forming an association where I will probably be working *more*, not less."

Pierce may be burning the candle at both ends too, since he'll continue his affiliation with Noe Valley Family Practice (NVFP), located at 24th and Dolores.

"Actually, we are looking for a new location [on the west end of 24th Street], with space for two doctors and a nurse practitioner, and we would then move the McFadden office there," says an enthusiastic Pierce.

Over at NVFP, "we've also added a new doctor to our staff—a general internist, Dr. Patricia Moreno—so we will continue to operate out of two sites in the neighborhood."



**TOPS OF THE POPS** Dan Buskirk of Streetlight Records reports that Joan Osborne's rock and roll disk *Relish* is far and away the store's most popular spin these days. "It has double the sales of her closest rival. What can I say? She's hot!"

Over at Aquarius, the hottest recording artist is a Pakistani ballad singer by the name of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, singing in his native tongue.

On Castro Street, Video Wave's Patrick Morehead says the store's number one video rental is *Apollo 13*, starring Tom Hanks. A close second is *Go Fish*, "kind of a girl-meets-girl movie," recently shown on the big screen at the Castro Theater.

West Coast Video, at 24th and Church, says its top rental is the high school girl adventure *Chueless*, starring Alicia Silverstone. Second on the hit parade is the Kevin Costner epic *Waterworld*.

And for those of you who still read, Cover to Cover lists its best-selling fiction as Salman Rushdie's *The Moor's Last Sigh*. In the non-fiction category, Hillary Rodham Clinton tops the list with her *It Takes a Village—And Other Lessons Children Teach Us*. Go, Hillary.



**NOE NAMEDROPPING:** It was nice to see that Phoenix Books, Streetlight Records, Star Magic, Martha's Coffee, Mike



**The Gods Are Laughing:** U.C. Davis students Heidi Appe and Amy Kelly (l. to r.), and Bernal resident Susan Appe, tried on earrings under the approving gaze of the many venerable totems at Xela Imports in Downtown Noe Valley

Photo by Beverly Tharp

the Barber at J&S Barber Shop, St. Paul's Cathedral, and Speckmann's Restaurant on Church Street made the Jan. 7 Sunday *Examiner* list of "96 reasons why San Francisco is so special."

Also on that list was Noe Valley artist and teacher Ruth Asawa. Ruth—along with another Ruth, Ruth Brinker of Open Hand—also appears in the recently released *The New Older Woman*, a book by Peggy Downes *et al.* (with a foreword by Gail Sheehy) that gives voice to the legions of women approaching and over 50, who can expect "to live 30 years longer than their grandmothers."

Sarah Van Arsdale, our first-prize poetry winner in last August's *Literary Issue*, just received a glowing review in the *S.F. Chronicle* for her first novel, *Toward Amnesia*.

Finally, Downtown Noe Valley was featured in an article in the Dec. '95 *Outlook*, a Mendocino monthly. The story, titled "Hidden San Francisco: Christmas Shopping in S.F.'s Neighborhoods," described Noe Valley as "the neighborhood of choice for liberal couples and growing families." It went on to say: "You'll marvel at the number of baby strollers and dogs that abound on the street." Yes, but when they reach school age...



**NOE'S TICKER:** The results of the Dec. 12 runoff election might interest you.

According to the Registrar of Voters, Noe Valley had a 52.1 percent turnout, and voted for da new mayor by a 2 to 1 margin (6,120 for Brown, as compared with 3,068 for da ex-mayor).

The Eureka Valley results, which also include Noe Heights down to 24th Street, were 6,930 for Brown, 2,679 for Jordan.

New D.A. Terence Hallinan got 5,229 to Bill Fazio's 3,658 in Noe Valley; and 6,161 to 3,176 in Eureka Valley.

That's 30 for now, folks. I hope you have a happy Valentine's Day and remember to celebrate this leap year's extra day. Ciao. □

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**Now Is the Time to Prune:** Professional arborist. Trees, shrubs, hedges. Neighborhood resident. Twenty years' experience. Free estimates, reasonable rates. 566-1920, 826-6160.

**Books:** Make your daughter delightously happy with near-complete Baby Sitters Club (\$35 or best offer). Also many others—Sweet Valley High, etc. Simcha, 861-7706.

**Book Group:** Monthly in Noe Valley. Sally, 647-3764.

**Supplemental Income** for a middle-aged or active elderly person who must live within a block or two of 24th and Sanchez streets. Active but aging man residing in a nice two-bedroom apartment, not looking for a caregiver, desires a person to stop by daily for a few minutes and to vacuum and clean about six to eight hours a month. Please call Rich, 647-7205.

**Immaculate Housecleaner.** Twelve years' experience. Thorough, reliable, bonded. Call Dianne, 415-541-5623.

**Psychotherapy Office Available** on 24th Street near Sanchez. Available Wednesdays, Fridays, and possibly Mondays. Comfortable, beautifully furnished office in a secure building. Located in a suite of psychotherapy offices with a kitchen. Convenient to public transit, shops, and cafes. 821-0590.

**Hauling.** Schlepper Brothers (Food Not Bombs activists). Totally reliable, quick, yogic, inspiring, fair. 824-4214

**Motherhood—Is It for Me?** Ambivalence can be immobilizing. Support groups and one-day workshops for women exploring the many feelings associated with this choice. Call for the 1996 schedule. Co-led by Denise Carlini, M.F.C.C., and Ann Davidman, M.F.C.C., registered intern. Supervisor K.G. Laser, M.F.C.C. (415) 985-7464.

**Formal Stairs, Built-in Cabinets,** fine interior finish work. New or repairs. Experienced carpenter with local references. Call John at 824-1278.

**The Healing Touch** is a Swedish massage that conveys compassion, heart, respect, and intuition. Come feel the touch at Iva's Salon and Day Spa with Shannon M. Hall, C.M.T. 641-8948.

**Yoga and Your Back.** A workshop for those who have had back problems or who want a better understanding of how yoga can keep the back healthy and supple. Bring a towel or mat, loose clothing, and an empty stomach. Thursday, Feb. 29, 7:30 to 9:10 p.m., \$7. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

**Taxation and Your Child:** A seminar about tax and family issues, wills and trusts, and investments for children. Presented by Fem Alix, C.F.P., E.A., president of Advanced Financial Designs, at Natural Resources, 4081 24th St. Wednesday, Jan. 10, 7 to 9 p.m. \$10. (415) 550-2611.

**Housekeeper Available.** Driver's license, good references. Call Nadir, (415) 282-4046.

**Good Carpentry/Handyman Services** from builder with 20 years of experience. Call Marcus, 647-6087

**Handpainted Novelties** for fun and profits. Send \$1 and envelope with return address and stamp to JLM, P.O.B. 40800, S.F., CA 94140.

**"I'm Not Dreaming—I'm Visualizing."** Part-time dad looking to share a house in San Francisco (Noe Valley/Bernal Heights preferred) with other easy-going parent types. Would prefer: large room(s), private bath, hardwood floors, hot tub, deck, yard, garage, fireplace, washer/dryer, view, storage. Under \$500. All reasonable offers considered. Larry: 207-9878.

**Weekend and Evening Toddler Care** available. Experienced preschool (10 years) teacher and early childhood caregiver seeks part-time, flexible, on-call position in your home. Michelle, 585-0367.

**Healing the Body of Stress.** Yoga postures and relaxation techniques can reduce or counter physical tension. By becoming more aware of and in tune with our bodies, stress has less opportunity to inhibit our natural flow of light and energy. Tuesday, Feb. 27, 7 to 9 p.m., \$12. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

**Lovely Therapy Office** available Mondays, \$110/month, shared waiting room, cleaning and utilities included. (415) 863-1936.

**Watercolor Classes:** Beginners to advanced, by professional artist with extensive teaching experience, to small groups. Daytime and evening classes. Please call Sabine at 731-5212.

**Potrero Hill Cottage Sublet.** We are looking for an excellent person or couple to sublet our house, garden, and pet-sit our two cats for the end of March, April, and May 1996. \$825/month, negotiable. Non-smokers, please. 255-4560

**CNA Specializing in Alzheimer's Disease** and emphysema. Recent board certification with extensive experience. Nutritional care and art therapy available. Driver's license and references available. Please contact (415) 776-9192.

**AbundANCE Aerobic Dance for Large Women.** Drop-in classes Wednesdays 6 to 7 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m. to noon at Women's Building, 3543 18th St. All women size 16 and up welcome! First class free. \$5 to \$7/class, fee negotiable. 337-6379.

**Experienced Housecleaner** from Amsterdam. Thorough, honest, with reliable references. \$11 per hour. Call Petrouschka, 647-5236.

**Women's Writing Classes.** We provide a friendly, supportive atmosphere to write and read your own work. Class includes use of writing exercises, dreams, photos, etc. All forms of writing; all levels of experience welcome. Twelve-week sessions start soon. Three-hour workshop on Feb. 25. For more information, call Linda Elkin/Writing Circles for Women, (415) 337-7207.

**We Recycle Technology.** Fact: Most nonfunctioning donations to charitable organizations end up in landfills. Fight this throwaway society! Benefit the earth and yourself by selling or donating your broken or unwanted technological objects to us. Save money by buying our recycled products. We handle TVs, VCRs, computers or anything electronic, vacuum cleaners, power tools, sewing machines, appliances. Trades are possible. Call our shop at 282-SHOP (7467) anytime, 24 hours.

**PMS/Menopause Workshop.** Explore natural and careful ways to help relieve symptoms of PMS and menopause through yoga poses, breathing practices, deep relaxation, and meditation. Don't eat for two hours before class; wear warm, loose clothing; and bring a towel. Thursday, Feb. 22, 7 to 9 p.m., \$10. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

**Guitars Wanted:** Martin, Fender, Gibson. Top cash paid. 647-7777.

**Childcare** in my Noe Valley home. Licensed. Providing a comfortable educational play environment within a small group setting of children. Hands-on activities including outside play, art, music, and short neighborhood trips are part of the fun. CPR-certified, ECE credits. For more information call Growing Up, Julie, 285-3119.

**Paint for Le\$\$.** Interior/exterior. Plaster repair and color consultation. Attention to detail! High quality at affordable prices. Quick, clean, and reliable. Excellent references. Free estimate. License No. 688790. Insured. Call 206-0646.

**Mareno Painting.** Victorian specialist. Color coordination. Twenty-two years. Free estimates. Interiors/exterior. 956-2642.

**Complete Tax Services** with the emphasis on service. Includes tax return preparation, small business services (1099s, W-2 forms, bookkeeping setup, partnership returns, etc.), tax planning, and audit representation by enrolled agent tax specialist. We specialize in working with individuals and small business owners, including those with out-of-state or prior-year returns, collection problems, or other special tax issues. Seventeen years' experience in the Bay Area with offices in Noe Valley and Oakland's Grand Lake area. Call with your questions or for a complimentary copy of *Tax Tips* newsletter. Faith Darling Tax Service, 24th/Castro, 821-4744.

**Pet Care.** Does Rover need a pet sitter? Exercise? Training? A nide to the vet? Positively Pets can help! Expert care for all pets. Ten years' experience. We love older pets. Bonded. References. Senior discounts. 647-2463.

**Unity and Diversity: Comparative Religions.** Much of the world's troubles are caused by religious dissension, but when we look deeply at world religious traditions, we find one truth clothed in diverse languages. Robert Fox, M.A., holds degrees in philosophy and religion and teaches at Las Positas and Chabot Colleges and the University of Phoenix. Monday, Feb. 26, 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$7. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

**Did You Miss Someone** gently patting your arm and really listening to you when you talk? Maybe you prefer a hack pat, or having your hair braided. Being a documentary filmmaker for 25 years, interviewing people worldwide, has taught me that many women crave "mother love" — unconditional acceptance, physical yet nonsexual intimacy, and someone who will listen, really listen, to what they have to say. At your request I will record your story; you can have the tapes at cost. My fee is the same as your car mechanic's. \$65/hour. Two-hour sessions recommended. Ask for Judy at 824-5822.

**Two Women in Their 60s** visiting from Germany are looking for one-bedroom sublet in April, for two to four weeks. Preferably Noe Valley. Call Julia (daughter), 821-3906.

**For Rent:** Feb. 25 to March 14. One-bedroom fully furnished cottage in heart of Noe Valley. Must take care of dog. Excellent references a must. \$450. 550-8435.

**Piano Lessons** in your home. Classical, blues, and New Age. Twenty years' experience. Silver Medal, Paris Conservatory. Johanna, 821-2737.

**Earn Extra \$\$\$.** Host a foreign student in your home, earn extra money, \$600–\$800/month, students and international business professionals. Call for information: (415) 459-1285.

**Looking for a School** for your child? The school selection process can be confusing, frustrating, and stressful. A support group for parents going through the school selection process is now being formed. Starts mid-January. Please call Vanessa Watt, M.F.C.C., at 821-7517 for more information.

**Your Spiritual Personal Trainer.** Visualization is a powerful technique for accessing your deepest abilities and desires, a technique to eliminate beliefs and fears that prevent you from having the life you want. I have taught and used visualization for over 20 years. Let me be your spiritual personal trainer,™ helping you develop your visualization skills to bring balance, clarity, and success into your life. My practice includes relaxation and self-nurturing, past life exploration, meeting spirit guides, self-healing, dream exploration, goal setting, eliminating fears. Noe Valley location. For appointments or information on workshops, tapes, or individual sessions, call Ruth Szilagyi, (415) 824-3281.

**Paris.** Fully equipped small apartment. Metro Pyrenees, \$525/week. (415) 285-1989

**Sounds of Ancient India.** Jai Uttal and Geoffrey Gordon lead a vocal journey through the sounds of ancient India with call and response group chanting, vocal exercises, and storytelling. A space of invocation, prayer, and heartfelt expression will be created. Open to all levels of experience. Sunday, Feb. 11, 5 to 8 p.m., \$25. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-3324

**Workspace Wanted:** 75 to 100 square feet. Would consider residential or commercial building. Call Ben, 641-6199.

**Washer & Gas Dryer for Sale.** Kenmore, off-white, they run great. \$300. Call 641-6199.

**Guitar Lessons:** Taught by professional. All styles, beginners to advanced welcome. Sliding scale. 642-5656.

**Apple Computer for Sale:** Mac II 4/40, Image-writer printer, modem software. Complete system—not fancy but very functional. Perfect for children. word processing, home financial programs. \$450. 648-5679.

**Housecleaning Magic** performed on your home. Thorough, reliable graduate student with five years of cleaning expertise. Paula, 751-7336.

**Carpentry/Handyman Services** from builder with 20 years' experience. Call Marcus at 647-6087.

**French/Arabic Language Tutoring** from Tunisian instructor. Samia, 647-6087.

**Fiddle!** Creative, experienced, fun teacher, great with kids and adults. I come to your home! All styles, sliding scale fees. Revi, (415) 563-4226.

**Unique Upholstery.** Repair, rebuild, and recover overstuffed chairs, ottomans, and dining room chairs. Jorge Meraz-Baca, (415) 282-2256.

**Hardworking Housecleaner.** I charge \$10 per hour and will give your house or apartment a very thorough cleaning every time. Please call 282-2256.

**Completely Luscious and Desirable,** intelligent, way fun, totally alive woman seeks tall, handsome, relaxed, adventurous, well-informed regular guy, 40s, who works at something he likes, thinks unconventionally, laughs, cries, reads, smells good, likes children, dancing, the 49ers, thinks he could become slavishly devoted to someone strong-minded and interesting who's come a long way on her own. Box 460265, S.F. 94146-0265.

**Gentle Yoga.** Simple stretches and yoga postures, deep relaxation and breathing techniques to gently stretch and strengthen the body and calm and relax the mind. Beginners welcome. Bring a towel, loose comfortable clothing, and an empty stomach. Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m., \$7 (\$4 for first class). Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St., (415) 821-3324.

**Harmonica Lessons:** Taught by professional Blues, jazz, pop, and country. Beginners to advanced welcome. Sliding scale. 642-5656.

**Women Writers' Group** meets monthly in Noe Valley to provide support for challenges of writing, publishing, and the creative process, including: writer's block, inner critic, self-disclosure, failure/success issues, isolation. Individual consultation also available. Maure Farrington, M.F.C.C. No. 24893. (415) 282-5965.

**\$\$ Earn \$\$** while losing weight. Fifty-two more people needed. We will pay you to lose 10–29 pounds in 30 days. Doctor recommended, 100 percent natural guarantee, no hunger. Energy. Call (415) 995-4740.

**Health Insurance.** Free quotes for individuals, families, and businesses — Blue Cross/Shield, alternative care, 'A' rated plans, Medicare supplements, long-term care. Let an expert agent assist you at no extra cost! Call Bill Hannant, 647-7012.

**Meditation Workshop.** A practical workshop that will enable students to begin earnest meditation on their own. A clear understanding of what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it an enjoyable daily experience will be presented. Tuesday, Feb. 20, 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$7. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

**Hyla Shifra, M.A.** Educator, consultant, trainer, mediator. P.O. Box 4148, San Rafael, CA 94913-4148. Information about author: Hyla Shifra offers classes and private consultations in Core Assertion and Communication for people in all walks of life. She also teaches anger management skills and works with people who want to stop the "control issues" in their relationships. Some classes are for women/men only. For her Guide to Assertion, including The Assertion Wheel, information about the Winter '96 schedule for workshops or private consultations, please call (415) 472-1723 or fax (415) 479-2412.

**The Children's Book Project,** a local nonprofit group that provides free books to needy San Francisco children, needs a garage, storefront, or warehouse space for sorting and storing donated books: 600–1,000 sq. ft., ground floor or with freight elevator and either loading dock or reasonable parking, plus bathroom access. Property tax deductions apply to buildings donated or given at reduced rent to nonprofit organizations. Contact Vicki Pollack, 647-2042, or Marina LaPalma, 824-6187.

**Charlie the Phone Guy.** Residence and business telephone systems, fax/modem lines, office-in-home. Dead phone jacks brought back to life. Separate jacks for roommates. Free estimates. Noe Valley resident. Call 641-8654.

**Furniture Restoration.** Complete antique and modern furniture restoration. Careful European craftsmanship. Expert refinishing. Custom upholstery. Caning. Quality repairing. Competitive prices. Home, office, commercial. Amazing portfolio and references. Free oral estimate, pick-up and delivery. Call Boris, (415) 587-3416.

**Word Processing:** Manuscripts, reports, papers, resumes. Editing, proofreading, tape transcription. Laser Printing. Joanne, 431-0603.

**Create Positive Change** in your life by identifying and healing old wounds in safe, warm Noe Valley environment. Trained in EMDR. Geri Gafis, M.F.C.C. 824-1914.

**Home Repairs:** Windows, doors, deadbolt locks, weatherstrip doors, general repairs. Local references, free estimates. I am always on time. 337-9327. Ask for Don.

**Hebrew Teacher** for all ages and levels. Learn Hebrew from a sabra with lots of teaching experience! Call Sheila, 285-9395, evenings.

**Piano Lessons** for children, teens, adults, using traditional and Suzuki methods and a variety of musical styles. I have an education degree from S.F.S.U. and 17 years of experience in San Francisco. Call Patricia Avery, 550-8299.

**Happy Housecleaning.** We'll clean your home, apartment or business how you like it! \$12 per hour. Call Pilar and Sara, 285-4067.

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Some services advertised in the *Noe Valley Voice* may be performed by individuals and companies not licensed by the State of California. The *Voice* is not responsible for the services of these individuals and companies.



# CLASSES ADS

**Mother's Little Helper** will do the things you're too busy to do. Errands, chauffeur kids, walk pets, talk to plants, clean closets/garages, do laundry, massage egos. Fast, efficient, caring. (415) 674-8479.

**Spotless Housecleaning.** Meticulous. Guilt-free service for busy people. Reasonable rates, dependable and trustworthy. 674-8479.

**Tax Preparation** for individuals, financial services and bookkeeping for travelers and the distracted. Enrolled agent licensed to represent clients before the IRS. Reasonable rates. \$10 discount with this ad. 695-1819.

**Why Clean?** Allow me to do it! Cleaning extraordinaire. Mike. 928-3199.

**Piano for Beginners.** Classical instruction and music theory. Patient, experienced, Noe Valley teacher. Elva. 285-5769.

**All Things Macintosh.** Computerize/professionalize your business. Software training. Hard disk recovery. Projects. References. Roslyn. (510) 526-1209.

**Meridian Psychotherapy Services** provides empathic therapy for individuals and couples. Day, evening, and Saturday appointments. Affordable fees, insurance accepted. Diverse cultural awareness. Sensitivity to sexual orientation. Church and Market. (415) 487-6229.

**Occasional Babysitter Wanted** for toddler for various times on weekends. Age 12 and up okay. 821-0343.

**Dug Fun, Midday Dog Walks** Monday through Friday. Go about your day—your dog's okay! Dog Walking Service of San Francisco. 731-0120.

**Natural/Non-Toxic Housecleaning.** Clean and Green will get your home spotless! Weekly, bi-weekly, and special occasions. Thorough, dependable, references. Janet. 281-9622.

**Demystify Relationships with Astrology.** Discover patterns, karmic ties, what potential you have together. Eye-opening and insightful. Joyce Van Horn, Partners in Healing. 441-4776.

**Live-In Child Care.** Loving and trained au pairs. AuPair Homestay offers security and the legal option. Monthly arrivals. Approximately \$207 per week for full-time care. Carol. (415) 349-2996.

**Great Winter Skiing:** Beautiful Tahoe home in prestigious Incline Village. Ski Squaw, Alpine, Diamond Peak. Large kitchen, three bedrooms, two baths, steam/sauna room, living room with fireplace, two decks, garage, all appliances and laundry. 282-7955. Call now.

**Stereo Repair:** Save time, money! Offering in-home repairs at reasonable rates. Formerly with Pacific Stereo; now serving the San Francisco community for 12 years. Evening/weekend appointments available. Thorough, conscientious, guarantee, references. Gene's Sound Service, 553-3751.

**Can't Afford Salon Prices?** Former Diepietro-Todd stylist will cut/color your hair at affordable price. Call Laura, licensed cosmetologist, 647-8478 or 267-3269.

**Carpentry and Home Improvements.** Reasonable rates. Excellent references. Jeffrey. 923-1927.

**Quality Carpentry.** Decks, stairs, doors, windows. Free estimate. Call Ian at 759-1315 (office) or 978-6510 (beeper).

**Quality Tile Work.** Bathrooms, kitchens, entryway. Patio tile, marble, slate. Free estimate. Call 759-1315 (office) or 978-6510 (beeper).

**"Creating the Relationship You Want."** An experiential workshop. Learn how to break out of predetermined roles and knee-jerk reactions that keep you from creating intimate and developing relationships in family settings, with close friends and partners, in work situations. West Coast Center for Social Therapy. March 2, Saturday, 1 to 4. \$20. Call Helen. (415) 986-3500.

**Math Tutoring.** Harvard educated, experienced math teacher will tutor in your home. (415) 664-6776.

**Storage Space.** Noe Valley, 200 square feet. Super clean, real dry, and very private. 821-9611.

**Would You Like to Host** an international student? English language school is looking for host families. For information call (415) 495-7470.

**Saxophones Wanted:** Top cash paid. 647-7777.

**Group Therapy for Women** with eating disorders. Food does not have to be the most important thing in your life. Overeating, throwing up, not eating are not as impossible to overcome as they may seem. We now have openings in our women's group. You may find it helpful to relate to others who are working to gain control of their lives and their eating. The group meets Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The fee is \$25 per week. For further information call Dr. Pat Sax, 661-7158.

**Housekeeper Available,** good references, driver's license. (415) 621-1319.

**Women's Support Group** meets weekly in Noe Valley. Come join other women working to improve relationships and communication, change self-defeating patterns, build self-esteem, and achieve goals. Individual sessions also available. Maire Farington, M.F.C.C. #24893. (415) 282-5965.

**Fight Back — Don't Be a Victim.** Your lawyer fights for you—accidents, injuries, evictions, contracts, more. Herman Kalfen, Esq. 929-1999 (24 hours).

**Bed and Breakfast,** "A Victorian Legacy," designer's beautiful three-room suite with private entrance. Excellent Noe Valley location. 648-8879.

**Massage Therapy for Women.** I focus on relieving neck and back tension. My office or your home. Janine. 647-2702.

**Non-Toxic Housecleaning.** It's healthy, effective and affordable. I'm thorough, reliable, honest. Local references. Chris. 431-4975.

**Spit in the Ocean:** One-bedroom condo in secluded Maalaea, Maui, has unparalleled ocean/volcano view, all amenities, 40 feet from water. \$70 to \$85 daily. 647-2142.

**Unique Bed and Breakfast.** Old world charm at affordable rates. Guests will awaken to the view of a flower-filled deck outside of their casement windows and the fragrance of homebaked delicacies and fresh-ground coffee. Call Liz, a gracious and knowledgeable hostess, for details, at 648-2515.

**Custom Upholstery** and furniture refinishing. Excellent work quickly done. Free estimate, pickup and delivery. One-Eyed Jacks, 1645 Market St. Visit or call 621-4390.

**Tender Loving Care** for Kitties and plants. Impeccable references. 647-6833.

**Carpenters/Handymen.** Remodeling and repair. Decks, doors, drywall. Windows, woodwork, whatever. Reasonable rates. References. For free estimate call Dan at 333-1857, or Mike at 242-1994.

**Books Bought.** I can come to you. Catl L.J., 469-9338 (45-year San Francisco resident).

**Complete Gardening Service** including consultations, design, and renovations. Expert pruning, planting, and maintenance. 626-1258.

**Sunny Mexico!** Five-star beautiful Terra Sol Condos Beach Resort, Cabo San Lucas. Step from deck to the sand! Two-bedroom, two-bath, kitchen, jacuzzi, pools, Lovers Beach, great fishing, diving. 282-7955.

**Peaches Painting.** Add color to your life (inside/outside). Service with care at rates that are fair. Since 1980. License #618693; 25 percent off with ad. 641-9434.

**Long Walks and Sweet Talks.** Responsible, loving care for your pets and house. Established 1982. Local references. Bonded. Call Ronda, 824-0188.

**Word Processing,** tape transcription, editing, statistical typing, mailings, repetitive letters, resumes, letter composition, and screenplays. Expertise: legal word processing and complaint letters. Dena Reiner, 821-4661.

**Wanted: Psychotherapy Office** full-time. Greater Noe Valley area. Quiet, light, spacious. Call Cate Potyten, M.F.C.C., 221-3233.

**Want to Feel and Look Great?** Balance your busy life and treat yourself to yoga classes. Relax, strengthen, and energize with this sensitive yoga. Open classes and Yoga for Men. New Dawn Yoga Therapy. 285-1831.

**"New Money"** for old wood and antique furniture, rugs, tools, glass, bric-a-brac, and household items and collections. Call Rose, 824-1180.

**Bookkeeping and Secretarial Services** for small business contractors and professionals. Profit and loss statements for tax preparation, invoicing, payroll, financial statements, setup of accounting software. Call Gina at 753-5063.

**Housecleaning.** Excellent references. Reliable, professional. Rosanja E. Eleuza, (415) 255-8506, (415) 221-8208.

**Spinning Web Gardening.** Maintenance, pruning, planting, clean-outs, landscape design. Call Barbara at 550-6923.

**Proofreading, Word Processing, and Editing.** Students, writers, job-seekers, businesses, non-profits, ESL. You're too busy to worry about commas! We'll polish your reports, themes, theses, manuscripts, resumes, flyers, brochures, newsletters, menus, letters, documents. Fast, accurate service. Very low rates. No more dull details for you! Precisely Proofreading and Editing. 285-7308.

**Transform Your Jungle** into a paradise. Pruning, cleanups, planting, lawns, irrigation, maintenance. Call Jorge at 826-7840 for free estimates. Remember, it's pruning time.

**Licensed Painting.** Small and large jobs. Interior and exterior. Free consultation and estimate. Also expert plaster and drywall repairs. Cracks and water damage fixed. License #497-214. References. Please call Ed at 995-4666.

**Bed and Breakfast,** quaint garden suite, spacious, front room, full kitchen, big bedroom and office area, laundry room, modern bathroom, ornamental gas fireplace, arched window view of garden with flowers, ground level, parking, separate entrance, quiet, near 26th and Sanchez, close to shopping and transportation, privacy. Additional rooms available. Call 206-1999.

**Just Plain Good Therapy.** Brief counseling, crisis help, or in-depth work offered to individuals and couples of "all sexual persuasions" by well-aged, intuitive, perceptive, and highly skilled counselor who has seen, heard, and experienced a broad range of life's challenges. Upper Glen Park, easy parking. Jeanne Adleman, M.A. 585-0666.

**Heavenly Maids.** Janitorial. 239-0561.

**Handyman:** Repairs, building shelves, decks, fences. References, reasonable rates. Harry Irving. 986-2654.

**Telephone wiring** and jacks for your home or apartment; 31 years of experience. Call Gene, 826-8419.

**Relationship Problems?** Improve communication, intimacy, and reduce conflicts with relationship counseling. Couples, individuals, and families. Dennis Thatcher, M.F.C.C. 995-2916.

**Cat & Plant Care** continues to provide TLC to cats and homes in Noe Valley and environs. Mature woman makes daily visits on a set schedule. Excellent local references. Call for a cat chat and additional information. Anna-Kays (A-K), 648-8132.

**Jamike (Jamma-kee!) Janitorial Service:** Carpets, floors, windows, walls, common areas. Bonded and insured. Free estimates! 334-7400.

**Yoel's Hauling.** Yard and garage cleanup. Disposal of debris. Responsible service, reasonable prices. Call Yoel, 282-2023.

**Estate Liquidations:** In-house sales or complete buyouts of whole or partial estates. One item or house-full. For our brochure and free estimate, call One-Eyed Jacks, 621-4390, Jim or Chuck.

**Poetry Wanted:** *The Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of poems, particularly those with neighborhood themes. Payment upon publication. Send submission (typed, please), plus name, address, and phone, to *The Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

**Tax Preparation, Accounting Services.** CPA specializing in small businesses and individuals. Reasonable rates. Half-hour free consultation. Ten percent discount mention this ad. 826-2958. Jack.

**Architect,** Michael Mullin, 626-1190.

**CEF Contractors.** Exterior painting and weatherproofing. Attention to potential water leak details. Structural repairs, local projects, excellent references. License #706109. Curt, (510) 654-4963.

**The Floor Guy** does sheet vinyl, linoleum, and flat-tile installations. Call Per, 563-9039.

**The Power of Thought Seminar.** Held three evenings each month. Spiritual information, insightfully presented. Free. B.K. Meditation Center 563-4459.

**Experienced Housecleaner.** Careful, thorough work done to your specifications. Garden care including pruning and weeding. Knowledgeable about houseplants and pets. Margaret, 824-0894.

**Rental Short-Term:** Noe Valley view location; private entrance garden suite with bedroom, living room, bath, kitchenette, plus full kitchen and laundry. Weekly, monthly rates. 285-7189.

**Vacation Retreat** for Noe Valleyans. Calistoga/St. Helena area; three bedrooms, two baths, sleeps six (maximum); large decks with views of stream/forest; fireplace with wood supplied, 30 acres, trails, all-year stream, koi pond; \$250/two-night weekend; \$275/three-night weekend; \$75/night mid-week, two-night minimum; \$500/week; \$1,500/month; 10 percent discount to all repeat guests. 647-3052.

**New Improved Noe's Nest Bed and Breakfast.** Unit A: private entrance, private bath, kitchenette, queen bed. Cute and cozy. Unit B: view, private bath, deck, fireplace, hot tub, queen bed. Unit C: ultra-view, private bath, steam room, parlor, king bed, fireplace, and deck. All with cable and VCR. Masseuse and day care available. Contact Sheila, 821-0751.

## How to Use Voice Class Ads

The rate for classified advertising in *The Noe Valley Voice* is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢ (we trust you), enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 15th of the month preceding the month in which you'd like the ad to appear. Please let us know whether your ad is a renewal from the preceding issue. But be sure to give us the full ad copy, in any case.

**Reward for Loyalty:** The *Voice* prints a news edition 10 months a year. (We publish a special literary issue in August, and January is our vacation month.) If you decide to place the same class ad in 10 issues (a year's worth), you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. When figuring your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

**The Next Voice** will be the March 1996 issue, arriving in Downtown Noe Valley on Wednesday, Feb. 28. To place a class ad, mail your ad copy and a check (payable to *The Noe Valley Voice*) so that we receive it by Feb. 15. The address is *Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Sorry, but we are unable to accept phone orders.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in boldface type. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you. □

**Maui Vacation House:** Beautiful 5-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath house (\$200) or one-bedroom (\$60). Fully equipped, privacy, nice back yard/lanai, across street from beach, Kihei. House sleeps 10; washer/dryer. 931-7035.

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# THE LAST PAGE

First-Person Essay

## I Bought My Sweetie a Diamond

Douglas A. Konecky

I BOUGHT MY SWEETIE a diamond. Nobody's sweetie is any sweeter than my sweetie, and she has been my sweetie for a long time and she deserved something nice. Chocolate would not do. Long-stemmed roses would not do. No gift certificate to Estée Lauder. Not even the fantasy of a two-hour massage from a 17-year-old fitness trainer.

It had to be a diamond because *diamonds are forever*.

I knew absolutely nothing about diamonds, except that they sparkled. Once I had seen one reduce Doris Day to speechless goo. So I knew they worked.

It was time to learn why.

First I went to a jewelry store down-

town. A woman with a difficult-to-place accent asked me how she could be of help.

"I want to buy my sweetie a diamond," I said proudly.

"Oooo, is wery romentick," she replied. "How much you would like to pay this diamond?"

Over and over during the next few days I would be asked this same question. How do you answer? I told her my love for my sweetie was strong. This was very stupid.

The lady behind the counter's eyes lit up. Her smile was blinding. She quickly showed me a necklace-earrings-bracelet ensemble not unlike the one Prince Charles had given Lady Di back when they were sweeties.

The pieces were beautiful. But they cost an arm, a leg, and a kidney or two.

She then showed me another collection, but the price seemed equally insane. I could see I was out of my league. I needed to find out something about diamonds. Why do they cost so much? What makes one worth more than another?

So I found my way to the wholesale diamond district on Brannan Street. The dealers all had their phone numbers listed on a wall. I called the first one. She asked if I were a wholesaler. "Why... of course I am," I said. She told me to tell the guard to direct me to number 243.



Poem

## Lady Luck

Zack Rogow

When we started dating, no Great God marionetted us together

The steps we took we chose.

No mystery card revolved to foretell our meeting.

Before we went out we eyed each other a long time.

We never conquered Macedonia side by side in ancient indigo robes.

Our only former lives the stories we appeared in before we met.

A brooch of stars didn't pin us on the day of our births—

our signs, both bulls, a complete mispair.

We may horn each other sometimes but we lie down more like kittens.

Though retrospect might see bright wings, no guardian angel tugged us.

No magic vial, or mojo, or voodoo brought us together.

For my great chance I don't thank Lady Luck. There is none.

I thank you, my mate, my Queen of Hearts, my Lady Luck.

*Zack Rogow is a Noe Valley resident who writes poetry and translates French literature. His most recent work, Horace, a previously untranslated novel by the 19th-century woman writer George Sand, was favorably reviewed in the New York Times Book Review in December. Library Journal called it "a delicious novel to prompt a revival of Sand's work."*

The guard was eating a baloney sandwich. He pointed with it, toward a stairway that led to an elevator that led to another set of stairs.

When I emerged I was in an underground warren of diamond merchants. This is true. They live under our very streets, giving each other lavish birthday and anniversary presents.

The girl at the counter of number 243 spoke with another mysterious accent. "What for you I can do sir now?" she asked.

All around me were jewels in cases, jewels in boxes, jewels in safes. My head was spinning. I decided to come clean.

"I want a diamond for my sweetie," I began, and then I whispered, "but I know absolutely nothing."

"No is problem," she answered, and kindly took the next three hours to explain everything there was to know about diamonds. The color codes. The brilliance benefits. The flaw factors. Diamonds from South Africa look different from diamonds from Zimbabwe. The settings come in light gold, dark gold, and platinum. Would you prefer a ring, a necklace, a bracelet, a brooch?

After a while I felt hypnotized. Under a microscope diamonds are indeed very beautiful. But sometimes when you remove the microscope, you cannot find the diamond.

We paused. She stared kindly at me. I knew what was coming. "How much you would like to pay this diamond?"

Before I could answer, two perfectly ordinary-looking women walked over to the counter and chose one ring each. They cost \$35,000 for the pair. "Such a bargain!" squealed the first to the second. They plunked down cash. My mouth was wide open. I could have caught flies.

The counter lady turned back to me. I grinned my sheepish grin, the one my sweetie hates. "Maybe you about it think a little," she smiled. I decided she was right. It was time to go.

I wandered through the jewelry cavern searching for an exit. There was none. The place was crawling with women, all of whom were flush with cash, and anxious to part with it in exchange for sparkly baubles.

Finally, I emerged into the sun. The

guard was eating a frozen yogurt. He waved goodbye with his plastic spoon.

Armed with my newly acquired knowledge, I hit all the jewelry stores. Most of them had the same jewelry, same settings, same diamonds, same ol, same ol.

Then I came home to Noe Valley to shop. All the while I was shopping, I kept promising myself I would someday invent another business like the diamond business, with a product that half the population longs for and the other half longs to buy.

Not that I don't love my sweetie. I do. I was just having trouble figuring out why in the world it mattered to her to own this silly little...

And then I saw the antique diamond necklace. And the minute I did, I knew exactly how her gorgeous neck was going to look with this gem nestled around it. I couldn't wait to buy it. It was primal.

I took my daughter down to make sure. "Oh, Dad," she said, "Mom's gonna flip." Correct response.

SO WE WERE SITTING in a restaurant in Mendocino and the sun was going down beyond the breakers. The waiter poured more wine. Dinner was done. I pulled the box from my pocket. She feigned surprise. She opened the box. Time stopped.

The look in her eyes was what it was all about. The diamonds glittered — but not like her eyes.

I closed the clasp in the back.

Sweeties for 25 years tonight.

"How do I look?" she said.

"Sweet," I said, "Very, very sweet." ♦

*Sanchez Street resident Douglas A. Konecky is a novelist and songwriter whose latest CD, Urban Lullaby, will be released this year.*

**Last But Not Least:** The Noe Valley Voice invites readers to submit first-person essays, poetry, or fiction for possible publication on The Last Page. Please mail your manuscript, which should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 1,500 words, to The Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to send a phone number. We look forward to hearing from you.